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'Revolutionary' seeds clouds, collects Hello Kitty



By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor
HE IS AN OFFICER AND A self-confessed revolutionary but Capt. Gismel Espino does not plant seeds of rebellion. Espino is not from the ranks of the Magdalo group, REVOLUTIONARY/ A15

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★★

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GMA backs AFP no-amnesty position vs military rebels

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO FULLY SUPPORTS the military brass' position not to grant amnesty to "adventurists" and the ongoing purge of "traitors" to the chain of command. This was revealed yesterday by her chief of staff, Michael Defensor, who also took issue with Sen. Rodolfo Biazon for airing a warning on Fri-

GMA/ A15

Noli: GMA must explain

Veep advises boss it's time to clear air on 'Garci'

By Cynthia D. Balana

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED advice to his boss, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo should squarely address the "Hello Garci" scandal in order to stem the restiveness in some sectors of society, particularly the military.

De Castro said he was confident that the President would be able to fully explain to the people her side in the matter. He expressed the belief that it was not Ms Arroyo's intention to skirt the issue, but that emotions were running high when the wiretapping controversy first broke out.

He stressed that while it was not his habit to offer unsolicited advice to the President, he believed that she should address the issue once and for all so that the opposition would stop using it against her.

"Sa palagay ko ay panahon na upang harapin ng ating mahal na Pangulo ang problemang ito (I think it's time our dear President addressed this problem)," De Castro told the INQUIRER.

"Ipaliwanag niya sa taong-bayan ang 'Hello Garci' tapes, at sa palagay ko naman at kayang-kaya naman niya itong gawin at mauunawaan naman siya ng ating mga kababayan (She should explain to the people the 'Hello Garci' tapes. I think she can do this very well and the people will understand her)," he said.

He added that it was up to the people whether to believe Ms Arroyo or not.

The scandal involves purported

NOLI/ A15



ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES. At her regular roundtable discussion at Kalayaan Hall on Saturday, President Arroyo presents a 1.8 kg LPG tank (2.7 and 5 kg tanks are also available) as a take-off on the Pinoy style of buying *tingi*/sachets, an innovation for homemakers at their wits' end over the soaring prices of cooking gas, among everything else. Major oil players like Shell and Petron rolled back their LPG prices yesterday.

LYNNILLON

Now it can be told: Who's who in civilian council

By Fe Zamora

THE MILITARY PLAN TO WITHDRAW support from President Macapagal-Arroyo was described by Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan as a "constitutional rescue" resorted to because "the democratic institutions" had failed to resolve the political crisis spawned by basically two issues: The alleged cheating in the May 2004 elections and the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"It was not a coup or a power grab. It was a constitutional rescue which the Armed Forces would exercise in accordance with its constitutional mandate

as protector of the state and defender of the people," Balutan, who testified at the Senate late last year over the 2004 poll fraud in Lanao, told the INQUIRER.

A former Marine battalion commander, Balutan faces court-martial for disregarding a ban on government executives testifying at the Senate last year without Ms Arroyo's approval.

INQUIRER sources in civil society and military groups involved in the planned breakaway on Feb. 24, confirmed that a "transition council" was to have assumed the functions of the "leadership" of the

executive, legislative and judicial branches of government immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro were toppled.

The sources clarified that "only the leaders (of the executive, legislative and judicial branches) would be removed, the civil servants would stay.

The INQUIRER sources' disclosures coincided with a report by the Philippine Army about a broad-spectrum leftist-and-rightist conspiracy to oust Ms Arroyo and replace her with an interim council.

According to one of the INQUIRER'S

military sources, the council would have been "headed by General Senga, if he agreed."

(Senga has strongly denied that he would be in charge of a "caretaker government." He said he was not capable of running the government.) (Story on Page A8)

President Arroyo's former executive secretary, Renato de Villa, and former Cabinet official Oscar Orbes, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, defeated presidential candidate Bro-

NOW/ A8

Endangered baby turtles follow the sun to survive

By Blanche S. Rivera

DIMAKYA ISLAND, PALAWAN—They followed the sun.

Feeling the rough sand for only the second time since they were hatched on this resort island, a dozen marine turtles inched their way toward the waters off the coast, following the fading light of sunset as their guide to

a vast new home.

The month-old creatures were the last batch of some 270 Hawksbill turtles that Club Paradise had been releasing to the sea in the past four months as part of a rear-and-release program for its shell-backed visitors.

Club Paradise, which sits on this 19-hectare patch of white sand an hour by boat from the main island of Busuanga, is recognized in the province as an unofficial marine turtle sanctuary.

It is a favorite nesting site of the endangered turtles among the northern Palawan isles, yielding up to 300 hatchlings a month during the peak nesting season from March to June.

"It's extremely important for resorts to take responsibility... because the most vulnerable areas [for turtles] are those taken over by resorts," James Humphreys, Club Paradise's German marine biologist, said in an interview.

ENDANGERED/ A4



MANUEL Laguna holds his daughter Faith Ivy Laguna, 6 months old, in his arms at the Philippine Heart Center.

Foundation appeals to Mike Arroyo who had change of heart

By Jerry E. Esplanada

INITIALLY, FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was all heart.

He had agreed to lead a nationwide fund campaign to give free open-heart surgery to thousands of poor Filipinos, which the Heart Foundation of the Philippines called a "very worthy cause."

But President Macapagal-Arroyo's controversial husband later begged off, claiming he had had enough of the criticism thrown at him.

"We met with the First Gentleman a couple of times. At first, he agreed to help the foundation. But later on, he declined. He said he's being hit left and right by administration critics," disclosed HFP president Dr. Francisco Dizon.

After raising P160 million for the training of Filipino athletes in last year's Southeast Asian Games, Arroyo was recently bashed for treating the RP contingent's gold medalists to a Hong Kong holiday.

Then came Manny Pacquiao's knockout victory over Mexico's Erik Morales

FOUNDATION/ A4



A WHOLE NEW WORLD opens up for a dozen marine turtles hatched a month ago at Club Paradise in Dimakya Island, Palawan. The resort, recognized in the province as an unofficial marine turtle sanctuary, let loose its shell-backed visitors as part of its rear-and-release program.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Palawan which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy with isolated rain showers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Palawan	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Quezon	Cloudy with Rains
Taguig	Partly Cloudy	San. Marcos	Cloudy with Rains
Clark	Partly Cloudy	San. Carlos	Cloudy with Rains
Laos	Partly Cloudy	San. Juan	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	San. Miguel	Cloudy with Rains
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	San. Rafael	Cloudy with Rains

Joker hits public indifference

Senator says GMA, gov't getting away with Charter violations

By Philip C. Tubesa

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

Maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday pounded the gong over public indifference over what he said was the government's continued violation of basic civil liberties.

Arroyo, a long-time champion of human rights, issued the alarm after observing that President Macapagal-Arroyo was shedding her democratic upbringing and disclosing that a "fascist clique" was gaining the upper hand in Malacañang.

"It is unfortunate that GMA is gradually losing her democratic moorings, and that makes her an easy prey to a fascist clique in

place in Malacañang," Arroyo said.

He accused the government of "conditioning the minds of the public that what it is doing unconstitutionally is the right thing."

He said the violations of the Constitution included the dispersal of peaceful rallies, the intimidation of mass media and warrantless arrests.

He called attention to the breaking up of a gathering of women protesters in Quezon City during the commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, where Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was bodily carried off by the police, ostensibly for her own safety.

No righteous anger

"Unfortunately, the public is slowly accepting and are getting accustomed to this. The violations of the Constitution have transmogrified into ordinariness. There is no more righteous anger. The protests, even in the Senate, have become mechanical reactions," Arroyo said.

"That is why we have to bring this back to the consciousness of the people that what the government is doing is committing one violation of the Constitution after another," he said.

Fascistic tendencies

"All these senseless dispersing of otherwise peaceful rallies and illegal arrests betray the administration's insecurity, if not its fascistic tendencies. Or is the administration flexing its muscle and testing the waters of a dangerous cesspool?" he added.

Arroyo said the police could not disperse or arrest protesters carrying banners calling for the President's resignation because this was constitutionally-protected free speech.

He said applications for permits to hold rallies had to be deemed approved if local executives did not act on them two days after they were filed. He said the question to be asked was not "Why not get a permit?" but "Why are they not given the permit they have applied for?"

Truncheons for women

"The administration, as a matter of policy, would do well not to squander the valuable time, resources and goodwill of the Philippine National Police by involving itself in the senseless breaking up of demonstrations. Imagine dispersing women's rallies violently with truncheons," Arroyo said.

"Are demonstrators law-breakers? No, if they are exercising their right of freedom of expression and to peaceably assemble to redress grievances under the Constitution," he said.

Arroyo assailed "the mindset of the police" which held that rallies "are out to foment trouble and thus, the need to preemptively break them up."

"That is very dangerous because that encourages fascistic tendencies, which must be curbed. Now is the right time and the administration can start the reeducation of the police, who are mostly good and decent but are compelled to follow less-than-lawful orders," Arroyo said.

Mining firms required to invest in environmental protection

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

MINING FIRMS CAN EXPLOIT the country's resources but they will have to spend a certain amount of their investments for environmental protection.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has required mining companies to set aside at least 10 percent of their capital expenditures to fund initial environmental expenses.

"President Arroyo has been sensitive to the issues and concerns on mining raised by various groups. But she is confident that strong safeguards and safety nets for the protection of environmental standards can be met without forsaking the potential of this industry to generate more jobs and

to close the poverty gap," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Mining companies will also be required to set aside three to five percent of their direct mining and milling costs for annual environmental programs.

Insurance coverage

To ensure that mining companies would pay for any mining accidents that might cause heavy damage to the environment, the President has demanded that they put up a mandatory environmental insurance coverage through a performance bond and Environmental Pollution, Impairment and Clean-up Liability Insurance.

Speaker Jose de Venecia earlier revealed that the President had agreed to review and probably amend the Mining Act which opened the country's mineral resources to foreign mining companies during a meeting with Church leaders, some of her Cabinet officials and lawmakers.

But based on Bunye's statement, the President was merely interested in strictly enforcing the environmental safeguards through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Caved in to pressure

Malacañang had earlier promised Church leaders that the government would revoke all permits of mining firms that

fail to meet environment safety standards and would impose a moratorium on new mining permits.

Malacañang, however, did not fulfill this commitment and gave in to pressure from mining companies whom the President had courted to invest in the Philippines after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Mining Act.

Yesterday, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said the President should suspend Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) and not issue new ones while she reviews the Mining Act to prove her sincerity.

"If Mrs. Arroyo is sincere in her intentions of amending and re-

viewing the Mining Act as she committed to some bishops, I challenge her to suspend all pending review of the law," Madrigal said.

Reyes app't opposed

As this developed, Madrigal has asked bishops and environmental groups in Samar to oppose the appointment of Secretary Angelo Reyes to the DENR.

In a public hearing held at the bishop's residence in Borongan, Eastern Samar, Madrigal urged Bishops Leonardo Medroso of Borongan, Jose Palma of Calbayog, Emmanuel Trance of Catarman and concerned citizens to make position papers and to at-

tend the confirmation hearings of the Commission on Appointment for Reyes soon.

"This government and the DENR are doing nothing but selling our ancestral domain for plunder to the highest bidder. They want quick money by raping the environment," she said.

Madrigal braved the inclement weather in coming to Borongan for her first hearing outside the Senate on Senate Resolution No. 375, which is looking into the reported displacement of indigenous peoples due to the logging operations of San Jose Timber Corp. With reports from Philip C. Tubesa and Cyraín Cabueñas, PDI Visayas Bureau

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BMW 325i Exec.

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BMW 325i Exec.

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12,000kms P2,100,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
8,000kms P2,200,000

BMW 330i Sport

2005 Arctic
4,000kms P3,850,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Silver Grey
6,000kms P4,250,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
4,000kms P4,400,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Amethyst Grey
9,000kms P4,150,000

BMW 530i

2004 Titanium Silver
4,000kms P4,550,000

BMW X3 2.0d

2005 Silver Grey
7,200kms P2,900,000

BMW X3 2.5i Exec.

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5,000kms P3,500,000

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2005 Titanium Silver
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1996 Cosmos Black
60,000kms P450,000

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2004 Titanium Silver
25,000kms P1,750,000

BMW 318i Exec.

2004 Orient Blue
26,000kms P1,750,000

BMW 318i M-Sport

2004 Topaz Blue
22,870kms P1,800,000

BMW 320i

2005 Arctic
10,316kms P2,110,500

BMW 320i

2005 Titanium Silver
11,057kms P2,110,500

BMW 323i A

1999 Cosmos Black
65,000kms P1,100,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Sierra Red
30,000kms P1,980,000

BMW 325i M-Sport

2004 Imola Red
12,392kms P2,380,000

BMW 523i

1997 Dunkel Blue
78,000kms P1,150,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.

2002 Pearl Beige
36,000kms P3,258,000

BMW X5 3.0i Exec.

2004 Black Sapphire
13,153kms P4,550,000

BMW X5 3.0i Exec.

2004 Black Sapphire
15,000kms P4,350,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.

2005 Titanium Silver
5,000kms P4,800,000

BMW Z4 2.5i Road.

2005 Sterling Grey
2,500kms P3,000,000

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BMW 118i Sport

2005 Sparkling Graphite
1,977kms P1,950,000

BMW 120i

2005 Quartz Blue
6,623kms P1,975,500

BMW 316i Exec.

2005 Sierra Red
14,756kms P1,879,000

BMW 320i

2005 Monaco Blue
7,388kms P2,250,000

BMW 320i Exec.

2005 Arctic
2,197kms P2,450,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2006 Steel Grey
5,235kms P2,311,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2003 Titanium Silver
50,115kms P1,739,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2006 Steel Grey
1,905kms P2,367,000

BMW 520i Limo

2004 Titanium Silver
12,112kms P3,519,000

BMW X3 2.0d

2006 Blue Waters
1,064kms P3,123,840

BMW X3 2.5 SAV

2004 Black Sapphire
15,009kms P2,930,000

BMW X3 2.5 SAV

2004 Mystic Blue
13,102kms P2,930,000

BMW X3 3.0 Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
3,412kms P3,858,000

BMW X5 3.0 Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
9,868kms P4,550,000

BMW X5 3.0 Exec.

2004 Sterling Grey
11,100kms P4,550,000

Klassik BMW

BMW 120i Sport

2005 Black Sapphire
4,600kms P2,050,000

BMW 316i

2004 Titanium Silver
1,362kms P1,500,000

BMW 320i

2005 Black Sapphire
5,140kms P2,170,000

BMW 320i Exec.

2005 Titanium Silver
2,777kms P2,450,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2002 Black Sapphire
46,000kms P1,500,000

Premier Cars BMW

BMW 120i Exec.

2005 Titanium Silver
6,402kms P1,890,000

BMW 530d Exec.

2005 Black Sapphire
5,580kms P4,500,000

BMW X3 3.0i Exec.

2004 Black Sapphire
15,831kms P3,700,000

BMW Z4 2.5i

2005 Sterling Grey
3,622kms P3,000,000

BMW X6 3.0d Exec.

2004 Alpine White
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Magpa-deliver na

Foundation appeals to Mike Arroyo who had change of heart

From page A1

on Jan. 22 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Arroyo was criticized anew for climbing the ring to congratulate the Filipino boxing icon.

Last straw

That proved to be the last straw for the staunch Pacquiao supporter and sports patron, said people close to the First Gentleman.

Dizon and Philippine Heart Center director Dr. Ludgerio Torres, among other HFP founding members, expressed hope that Arroyo would reconsider his decision.

Time is running out for those on the PHC waiting list for free heart operations, Torres warned.

From 4,000 charity patients in 2002, the Heart Center backlog is "now down to more than 800 cases, about 40 percent of whom will die while waiting for the operation," according to the PHC head.

An open heart operation costs at least P100,000.

"Tens of millions of pesos will allow us to totally erase the backlog. But we don't have that kind of money. As the population grows, new cases are added to the waiting list. Walang katapusan 'yan (It's never-ending) and for the hospital an endless problem," Torres said.

First ladies to the rescue

Both former first ladies Amelita "Ming" Ramos and Dr. Loi Estrada had actively taken part in past HFP fund campaigns.

During her term as honorary chair of the "Pusong Nagmamahal" fund drive, Ramos raised close to P10 million from golf tournaments sponsored by Duty Free Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The events also got the backing of business giants PFI-Estate Land, International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Toyota Motor Phils. Corp., among others.

Estrada, now a senator, launched the HFP fund drive in Malacanan.

In 2000 alone, she managed to raise more than P7.6 million with donations from business tycoons Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Manuel Pangilinan and Lucio Tan.

Then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes (now natural resources secretary) and former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon also helped in the fund drive.

Dizon noted that during a Zambales surgical outreach program, "Dr. Loi sent additional money but the funds disappeared."

No. 1 killer

The HFP used to get about P10 million from its annual fund campaigns. "The funds have allowed the foundation to provide assistance to 7,000-plus indigent patients during the past 34 years," said Dizon.

"Lately, we've slowed down because money isn't coming. We're having difficulty raising funds. We're also getting less requests for aid. Why? Because we have been turning down the same requests due to financial constraints," he lamented.

Last week, the HFP gathered popular bands Orange and Lemons, Freestyle and Juan dela Cruz Band at the Polk Arts Theater in "Rock da Band," its Valentine's fund-raising concert.

Like the foundation, the Heart Center is also plagued by money problems. The state-run medical facility has been get-



A GIRL IS WAITING. Mary Grace Igadna, 5, is one of over 800 indigent patients on the waiting list of the Heart Center in need of open heart surgery.



NOW A HEALTHY 38-year-old, Robert Vargas was a beneficiary of the Heart Foundation of the Philippines when he was a blue baby at 6 years old (inset). He appeals to Mr. Mike Arroyo to resume helping in the fund drive. He himself is willing to donate something from his meager pay as a security guard to pay back for his free operation.

ting only P150 million in annual government subsidies.

"Di tumataas, di bumababa (The subsidy neither increased or decreased) during the past 10 years. Despite the fact that cardiovascular disease has been the country's No. 1 killer disease for 10 years now. The state's priorities are to fund common diseases like tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrhea. To think that the PHC is the country's one and only heart center serving the entire 80 million population, unlike Taiwan where 11 heart centers support its 20 million population or Singapore which has three heart centers for its 2 million people," Torres pointed out.

Imelda Marcos' project

It was the HFP that convinced then first lady Imelda Marcos to put up, in the early '70s, what was initially called Philippine Heart Center for Asia, established under Presidential Decree No. 673.

On Feb. 14, 1975, the PHC was formally opened by Marcos and her foreign guests led by the late Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the South African cardiac surgeon who made history eight years earlier by performing the world's first heart transplant.

Other world-renowned heart experts who graced the PHC inauguration included Doctors Donald Effler, Charles Bailey and Denton Cooley.

HFP founding chair Dr. Avenio Aventura was the first PHC head while Dr. Esperanza Cabral (now health secretary) became the hospital's first woman director in 1986.

Blue baby

Like some HFP old-timers, R&B Tube Ice Plant security guard Robert Vargas also hopes Arroyo would change his mind.

Vargas, an ex-HFP aid beneficiary, was born with a defective heart.

At age six, Vargas, a "blue baby," was operated on by Torres and Aventura. In 1980, he underwent follow-up surgery.

Now 38 and feeling healthier than ev-

er, Vargas has appealed to other former HFP referrals to support the organization's fund campaign.

He said he wouldn't mind "donating a few pesos from my small monthly pay [of P6,000] just to be able to help those in need."

Rheumatic heart

Torres said they would like other surviving Heart Center patients like Iluminada Asoy-Sanguyo, the very first beneficiary of the HFP program, and Edgar Robles, to help spread the word about the fund drive.

On Feb. 14, 1972, then 18-year-old Sanguyo (who had rheumatic-heart disease) was operated on for mitral stenosis by a team of surgeons at the V. Luna General Hospital, also in Quezon City. Torres was part of the surgical team.

Torres recalled: "Both [then] President Ferdinand Marcos and the First Lady watched the televised operation. Right after the surgery, the President called and congratulated us. He said, OK you will have your Heart Center. Just to make sure, he sent Mrs. Marcos the following day to check if Sanguyo was really alive. She was so impressed when she saw that the patient could already walk."

Now in her early 50s and a mother of two, Sanguyo is based in Saudi Arabia with her diplomat-husband.

Hole in the heart

Robles, 38, is an OFW working in the United Arab Emirates. He underwent surgical correction of a "hole in the heart" when he was eight, according to HFP files.

"Robles, the eldest of four children of a financially handicapped couple, suffered from congenital heart disease. Had he not been operated on at a young age, he probably would now be a cardiac cripple," said the foundation.

Despite increasing operational costs, the PHC has promised to continue serving the poorest of the poor.

The East Avenue, Quezon City-based

hospital averages 200 new cases a day in its outpatient department. Some 80 percent of them are charity cases.

For the inpatient section "it's reversed—80 private and 20 charity," Torres said.

Out of some 40,000 operations conducted by the hospital during the past 31 years, about 30 percent were charity cases.

"The ratio used to be 60-40, with 60 percent representing private patients and 40 percent charity. But lately, with costing for charity going up and our subsidy stuck at P150 million, it became 80-20, with indigents representing the 20 percent," Torres said.

He expressed hope that "figures for indigents would go back to 40 percent. That is why we make it a point to utilize income derived from private patients in charity cases."

Quality service

Current rates for PHC surgical procedures range from P46,000 for a coronary angiogram (with a three-day stay in a ward) to P579,450 for special complex congenital (with 10-day confinement in a private room).

PHC private room packages are "affordable by those in the middle income bracket. In private hospitals like Asian [Hospital] and St. Luke's [Medical Center], a coronary bypass costs between P800,000 and P1 million," said Torres.

At the Heart Center, the same procedure costs from P343,350 to P518,580.

The hospital "has gained a reputation as one of the busiest congenital heart surgery centers in the region where patients receive quality service at reasonable prices," said the PHC website.

It has a high survival rate for open-heart surgery patients, too, Torres said. "For coronary bypass, it's 99 percent. It's 95-96 percent for congenital heart disease. For valve replacement, it's 97 percent."

The hospital, which has a well-trained and highly experienced medical staff, expects to save more lives with new heart-

scanning technology, courtesy of a P450-million "part-loan, part-grant" from the Dutch government.

New equipment

On Feb. 14, the PHC inaugurated its nuclear medicine and cardiac catheterization laboratory and a CT scan which is capable of producing the most detailed images available of the heart's arteries without surgery.

The hospital is set to acquire, among other things, two coronary angiograms—touted as the "gold standard for viewing the arteries that nourish the heart"—and a magnetic resonance imaging machine or MRI.

The P150-million MRI not only reveals the layers of fat that envelop most hearts, radio signals emitted by oscillating atoms in heart cells are also converted by a computer into either still or moving 3-D images.

The PHC already has four echocardiograms (which cost around P15 million each) but they need to be updated from 2- to 3-dimensional.

Prevention is best

New technology notwithstanding, heart transplants are not likely to take place at the Heart Center in the coming years, Torres said.

"Aside from cultural-religious reasons, the procedure is too costly. With a price tag of P1 million per transplant, we can operate on five to seven charity patients. So why use your scarce resources on a single operation?" Torres said.

The PHC head dispelled the myth that many Filipinos with sick hearts die because they fail to undergo heart surgery, or get a new heart.

Torres observed that "many seek medical advice when it's too late. Kung di grabe, di pa papasok ng ospital para patingin sa doktor. Ugaling Pinoy (If it's not life-threatening, they will not go to a hospital or consult a doctor. It's the Pinoy attitude)."

He added: "Prevention is still the best medicine."

Endangered baby turtles follow the sun to survive

From page A1

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Returning to the spot

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Female marine turtles that survive return to the exact same place where they were born to lay their own eggs.

It is hoped that the dozen or so babies released last week would make the return trip to this island and deliver the next generation of marine turtles, which will again follow the sun and propagate their kind for another 30, 50 or 150 years.

Foundation appeals to Mike Arroyo who had change of heart

From page A1

On Jan. 22 in Las Vegas, Nevada, Arroyo was criticized anew for climbing the ring to congratulate the Filipino boxing icon.

Last straw

That proved to be the last straw for the staunch Pacquiao supporter and sports patron, said people close to the First Gentleman.

Dizon and Philippine Heart Center director Dr. Ludgerio Torres, among other HFP founding members, expressed hope that Arroyo would reconsider his decision.

Time is running out for those on the PHC waiting list for free heart operations, Torres warned.

From 4,000 charity patients in 2002, the Heart Center backlog is "now down to more than 800 cases, about 40 percent of whom will die while waiting for the operation," according to the PHC head.

An open heart operation costs at least P100,000.

"Tens of millions of pesos will allow us to totally erase the backlog. But we don't have that kind of money. As the population grows, new cases are added to the waiting list. *Walang katapusan 'yan* (It's never-ending) and for the hospital an endless problem," Torres said.

First ladies to the rescue

Both former first ladies Amelita "Ming" Ramos and Dr. Loi Estrada had actively taken part in past HFP fund campaigns.

During her term as honorary chair of the "Pusong Nagmamahal" fund drive, Ramos raised close to P10 million from golf tournaments sponsored by Duty Free Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

The events also got the backing of business giants Fil-Estate Land, International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Toyota Motor Phils. Corp., among others.

Estrada, now a senator, launched the HFP fund drive in Malacañang.

In 2000 alone, she managed to raise more than P7.6 million with donations from business tycoons Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Manuel Pangilinan and Lucio Tan.

Then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes (now natural resources secretary) and former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon also helped in the fund drive.

Dizon noted that during a Zambales surgical outreach program, "Dr. Loi sent additional money but the funds disappeared."

No. 1 killer

The HFP used to get about P10 million from its annual fund campaigns. "The funds have allowed the foundation to provide assistance to 7,000-plus indigent patients during the past 34 years," said Dizon.

"Lately, we've slowed down because money isn't coming. We're having difficulty raising funds. We're also getting less requests for aid. Why? Because we have been turning down the same requests due to financial constraints," he lamented.

Last week, the HFP gathered popular bands Orange and Lemons, Freestyle and Juan dela Cruz Band at the Folk Arts Theater in "Rock da Band," its Valentine's fund-raising concert.

Like the foundation, the Heart Center is also plagued by money problems. The state-run medical facility has been get-



A GIRL IS WAITING. Mary Grace Igadna, 5, is one of over 800 indigent patients on the waiting list of the Heart Center in need of open heart surgery.



NOW A HEALTHY 30-year-old, Robert Vargas was a beneficiary of the Heart Foundation of the Philippines when he was a blue baby at 6 years old (inset). He appeals to Mr. Mike Arroyo to resume helping in the fund drive. He himself is willing to donate something from his meager pay as a security guard to pay back for his free operation.

ting only P150 million in annual government subsidies.

"*Di tumataas, di bumababa* (The subsidy neither increased or decreased) during the past 10 years. Despite the fact that cardiovascular disease has been the country's No. 1 killer disease for 10 years now. The state's priorities are to fund common diseases like tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrhea. To think that the PHC is the country's one and only heart center serving the entire 80 million population, unlike Taiwan where 11 heart centers support its 20 million population or Singapore which has three heart centers for its 2 million people," Torres pointed out.

Imelda Marcos' project

It was the HFP that convinced then first lady Imelda Marcos to put up, in the early '70s, what was initially called Philippine Heart Center for Asia, established under Presidential Decree No. 673.

On Feb. 14, 1975, the PHC was formally opened by Marcos and her foreign guests led by the late Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the South African cardiac surgeon who made history eight years earlier by performing the world's first heart transplant.

Other world-renowned heart experts who graced the PHC inauguration included Doctors Donald Effler, Charles Bailey and Denton Cooley.

HFP founding chair Dr. Avenilo Aventura was the first PHC head while Dr. Esperanza Cabral (now health secretary) became the hospital's first woman director in 1986.

Blue baby

Like some HFP old-timers, R&B Tube Ice Plant security guard Robert Vargas also hopes Arroyo would change his mind. Vargas, an ex-HFP aid beneficiary, was born with a defective heart.

At age six, Vargas, a "blue baby," was operated on by Torres and Aventura. In 1980, he underwent follow-up surgery.

Now 38 and feeling healthier than ev-

er, Vargas has appealed to other former HFP referrals to support the organization's fund campaign.

He said he wouldn't mind "donating a few pesos from my small monthly pay [of P6,000] just to be able to help those in need."

Rheumatic heart

Torres said they would like other surviving Heart Center patients like Iluminada Asoy-Sanguyo, the very first beneficiary of the HFP program, and Edgar Robles, to help spread the word about the fund drive.

On Feb. 14, 1972, then 18-year-old Sanguyo (who had rheumatic-heart disease) was operated on for mitral stenosis by a team of surgeons at the V Luna General Hospital, also in Quezon City. Torres was part of the surgical team.

Torres recalled: "Both [then] President Ferdinand Marcos and the First Lady watched the televised operation. Right after the surgery, the President called and congratulated us. He said, OK you will have your Heart Center. Just to make sure, he sent Mrs. Marcos the following day to check if Sanguyo was really alive. She was so impressed when she saw that the patient could already walk."

Now in her early 50s and a mother of two, Sanguyo is based in Saudi Arabia with her diplomat-husband.

Hole in the heart

Robles, 38, is an OFW working in the United Arab Emirates. He underwent surgical correction of a "hole in the heart" when he was eight, according to HFP files.

"Robles, the eldest of four children of a financially handicapped couple, suffered from congenital heart disease. Had he not been operated on at a young age, he probably would now be a cardiac cripple," said the foundation.

Despite increasing operational costs, the PHC has promised to continue serving the poorest of the poor.

The East Avenue, Quezon City-based

hospital averages 200 new cases a day in its outpatient department. Some 80 percent of them are charity cases.

For the inpatient section, "it's reversed—80 private and 20 charity," Torres said.

Out of some 40,000 operations conducted by the hospital during the past 31 years, about 30 percent were charity cases.

"The ratio used to be 60-40, with 60 percent representing private patients and 40 percent charity. But lately, with costing for charity going up and our subsidy stuck at P150 million, it became 80-20, with indigents representing the 20 percent," Torres said.

He expressed hope that "figures for indigents would go back to 40 percent. That is why we make it a point to utilize income derived from private patients in charity cases."

Quality service

Current rates for PHC surgical procedures range from P46,000 for a coronary angiogram (with a three-day stay in a ward) to P579,450 for special complex congenital (with 10-day confinement in a private room).

PHC private room packages are "affordable by those in the middle income bracket. In private hospitals like Asian [Hospital] and St. Luke's [Medical Center], a coronary bypass costs between P800,000 and P1 million," said Torres.

At the Heart Center, the same procedure costs from P343,350 to P518,580.

The hospital "has gained a reputation as one of the busiest congenital heart surgery centers in the region where patients receive quality service at reasonable prices," said the PHC website.

It has a high survival rate for open-heart surgery patients, too, Torres said. "For coronary bypass, it's 99 percent. It's 95-96 percent for congenital heart disease. For valve replacement, it's 97 percent."

The hospital, which has a well-trained and highly experienced medical staff, expects to save more lives with new heart-

scanning technology, courtesy of a P450-million "part-loan, part-grant" from the Dutch government.

New equipment

On Feb. 14, the PHC inaugurated its nuclear medicine and cardiac catheterization laboratory and a CT scan which is capable of producing the most detailed images available of the heart's arteries without surgery.

The hospital is set to acquire, among other things, two coronary angiograms—touted as the "gold standard" for viewing the arteries that nourish the heart—and a magnetic resonance imaging machine or MRI.

The P150-million MRI not only reveals the layers of fat that envelop most hearts, radio signals emitted by oscillating atoms in heart cells are also converted by a computer into either still or moving 3-D images.

The PHC already has four echocardiograms (which cost around P15 million each) but they need to be updated from 2- to 3-dimensional.

Prevention is best

New technology notwithstanding, heart transplants are not likely to take place at the Heart Center in the coming years, Torres said.

"Aside from cultural-religious reasons, the procedure is too costly. With a price tag of P1 million per transplant, we can operate on five to seven charity patients. So why use your scarce resources on a single operation?" Torres said.

The PHC head dispelled the myth that many Filipinos with sick hearts die because they fail to undergo heart surgery or get a new heart.

Torres observed that "many seek medical advice when it's too late. *Kung di grabe, di pa papasok ng ospital para patingin sa doktor. Ugaling Pinoy* (If it's not life-threatening, they will not go to a hospital or consult a doctor. It's the Pinoy attitude)."

He added: "Prevention is still the best medicine."

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'Wowowee' reopens to mixed reviews

By Bayani San Diego and Jocelyn Uy

IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE Ultra tragedy on Feb. 4, a somber Willie Revillame tearfully said that if he ever went back on the air, he would dedicate a song to the 71 "dreamers" who perished in the stampede.

But when the "Wowowee" game show returned yesterday, Revillame was singing a different tune.

He was chanting and dancing with a bunch of anti-athan performers, cheered on by a gallery of ABS-CBN worthies—Charo Santos-Concio, executive vice president and manager; Edgar Mortiz, creative consultant; Joanna Gomez, VP for TV operations; Marilou Almaden, business unit head; Jeffrey Remigio, AVP of ABS-CBN Global; Leng Raymundo, VP for acquisitions; and Anna Feliciano, choreographer.

Revillame, Concio and Almaden were among the individuals that the National Bureau of Investigation found liable for the Ultra tragedy. Anna Feliciano is the wife of Mel Feliciano, the show's assistant director recommended for prosecution by the NBI.

From all indications, it's business as usual at Studio 3 of ABS-CBN. The show must go on, as the old Hollywood adage would have it, for the network and its employees.

Overwhelming clamor

"The show is back on air because of the overwhelming clamor the network has received from viewers both here and abroad," said Maloli K. Espinosa, vice president for government, corporate affairs and PR.

She said the network received "lots of calls, e-mails and letters requesting the show's return."

Survivor Neildrin Catubig was in tears, however, as he watched the return of "Wowowee" on television yesterday.

It was like a bad dream come to haunt him again, said Catubig, who was one of the many people trampled underfoot when the crowd became restive, pushing and shoving to enter the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City where the game show was to have celebrated its first anniversary.

Insult to victims

"They should not have aired the program yet. It is a 100 percent insult to the victims and the survivors who are still grieving," he said.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) said it was "absolutely outrageous" for ABS-CBN to air the game show again so soon after the tragedy.

"ABS-CBN stomped on the memory of those killed in the tragedy," said VACC founding chair Dante Jimenez.

"How has its management and staff mustered the gall to continue the program that reminds everyone of the heaps of dead bodies and hundreds of injured people whose lives have changed after the tragedy?" he asked.

The VACC will seek the National Telecommunications Commission's intervention to stop the airing of "Wowowee," Jimenez said.

Espinosa rattled off the show's "improve-

ments," including what she called a micro-financing component to the prizes, such as giving financial advice to the winners as well as tips on how to use their cash prizes wisely.

Where before the show was open to everyone, one has to be the best in his field or sector to join.

"If he is a tricycle driver, he has to be the best tricycle driver," she said.

To Espinosa, these are by way of "lessons learned" from the tragedy and "[putting] more meaning to our

public service."

She said the network would continue to provide support and assistance to the injured and the victims through the 71 Dreams Foundation.

Hundreds of security personnel, including policemen, were deployed at the network's studios for the reopening of the show.

Espinosa also said new safety rules have been devised, such as separate queues for the elderly and for children, and standby ambulances and medical staff.

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Japan gives P72M to control floods

JAPAN HAS STEPPED UP ITS AID TO LEYTE island, almost a month after the deadly Feb. 17 landslide that buried a village in Southern Leyte.

In addition to the \$11 million and P27 million worth of assistance it gave to the landslide victims earlier, the Japanese government has announced that it is giving P72 million for the repair of the flood control system of Ormoc City in Leyte province.

Ormoc's flood control system was built by the government with foreign assistance following the November 1991 floods that killed some 5,000 in the city. Its main structures, however, were damaged by typhoon Gilas in 2003.

The latest package of Official Development Assistance was announced by Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki on March 7.

The grant will cover 75 percent of the cost of repairing the Nadongholan Diike in the upper section of the Malbasag River, as well as the access roads for the Biliboy Silt Dam.

The dam was built through a Japanese grant in 1998, while the riverbank protection structures for the Malbasag River were funded by the Asian Development Bank shortly after the 1991 tragedy.

Until typhoon Gilas struck and weakened these structures, "they fully served their purpose in safeguarding Ormoc City from succeeding floods of equivalent or higher magnitudes," the Japanese Embassy noted in a statement.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is expected to complete the repairs in seven months, it said.

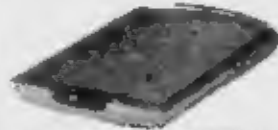
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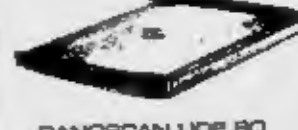
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In SE Asia, child sex trade goes on unabated

SINGAPORE—SOUTHEAST ASIA is one of the world's top destinations for people seeking sex with

children, and signs of the trade are often evident.

Hundreds of thousands of girls and boys are believed to be working in the sex trade in the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries in an un-

derground industry that inflicts untold emotional and physical harm on young lives.

In one late-night scene at a Cambodian bar, half a dozen children played with a puppy and watched cartoons on television as Western men strolled outside. In Thailand, despite tougher law enforcement, foreigners are sometimes seen walking with young girls dressed in

high heels and halter tops.

"Many of these countries do have certain laws in place. The issue is enforcement," said Ruben Rodriguez of the US-based International Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Police and courts struggle with a backlog of drug, murder and other cases. Child sex prosecutions are relatively rare, and tend to snare individual offenders

rather than the trafficking networks that supply them. Many pedophiles pay off authorities or the families of victims, who are usually poor and eager to avoid the shame of a public trial.

On March 3 in Vietnam, a court sentenced former British rocker Gary Glitter to three years in jail for molesting two girls, and his lawyer said he could be paroled sooner. The judge said the \$2,000 that Glitter paid to each girl's family contributed to the lighter sentence from a possible maximum of seven years.

Such an outcome could reinforce a perception of lax laws in Southeast Asia and attract foreign child molesters who face tougher penalties at

home, experts said. In some cases settled out of court, they said, the destitute family of a young victim takes hush money even if the distraught child doesn't want the bribe.

"There are more and more tourists coming, and more danger for the children," said Christian Guth, a former French police officer who has assisted Cambodian authorities in investigating the child sex trade.

30 years in jail

The United States, Britain and Australia are among countries with laws allowing the prosecution of their citizens who sexually abuse children overseas. A US law from 2003 mandates a sentence of up to 30 years for anyone, at home or abroad, who has sex with a minor, defined as someone under the age of 18.

But crafting legal cases based on evidence from another continent entails long delays, and sometimes requires victims to travel a long distance to testify. Some transient children are difficult to locate, especially for a small team of investigators from another country.

Most abusers Asian

Most perpetrators of child sex crimes in Asia are Asian. This month, Singapore became one of the first Asian countries to say it would amend its law to prosecute its citizens who have sex with minors overseas. The wealthy enclave is a short ferry ride from the Indonesian resort island of Batam, where sex tourism flourishes.

The Philippines has a law that protects children against all forms of abuse, but it needs to be amended to cover the pervasive problem of child pornography on the Internet, said Anjanette

Saguisag, a child protection officer at the Unicef office in Manila.

"With the advances in technology, the law hasn't been able to cope with the new ways of committing the crime," she said.

Few other countries in the region have specific legislation that targets child pornography offenses on computers.

Saguisag said some sex offenders try to attract children through online chat rooms, sometimes pretending to be children themselves. Philippine activists are pushing lawmakers to upgrade the law, but the lobbying is expected to take a long time.

Laws unclear

Legal experts and social workers said some laws don't clearly define child sex tourism as a crime, and that the ambiguity of the wording can weaken their impact. Cambodia, for example, prosecutes some child molesters under a law that bans "debauchery."

"They don't have a specific statute that would focus on having sex with children under a certain age," said Katharine Bostick, a former US federal prosecutor based in Singapore with Microsoft Corp. The company helps train law enforcement officials and social workers in the region in how to track down pedophiles operating on the Internet.

Changing perceptions as well as laws is part of the battle, Bostick said. An Indian social worker told her about members of an Indian group who thought an incestuous relationship between a father and a daughter was acceptable, even though the group was caring for young victims of sexual abuse.

"There's a long way to go in terms of understanding that this is a problem," Bostick said. AP

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Sprinklers on ships mulled

MARITIME INDUSTRY regulators plan to require inter-island passenger vessels to install automated firefighting equipment to help fight fires at sea like the one that struck the Superferry 12 last week.

Maritime Industry Authority administrator Vicente Suazo Jr. said he will propose making sprinkler systems a requirement on domestic passenger liners, many of which are equipped only with manual water pumps and fire extinguishers.

Mandatory

"I am thinking of making automatic sprinklers mandatory for these vessels," Suazo said in a phone interview.

Suazo said what happened on the Superferry 12 - where the blaze was placed under control within 30 minutes and completely put out three hours later with the help of automatic sprinklers - convinced him of the need for making such equipment a requirement.

Safe

A statement issued by Aboitiz Transport System, owner of the Superferry 12, said all 639 passengers and 145 crew members were "safe and secure" and that an evacuation of the ship was not necessary.

The ship proceeded to Cebu as planned and arrived in port Thursday night.

"Initial reports state the fire started in the stateroom and the ship's crew immediately went into fire-fighting mode," the company statement said. Daxim L. Lucas

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Imelda to be called as witness in power plant case

By Nelson F. Flores

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTORS will ask former first lady Imelda Marcos to testify against her husband, a golfing buddy and business associate of her late husband, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in connection with a graft case involving the moth-balled \$2.3-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in which both men allegedly made millions in kickbacks.

Raymundo Julio Olague, lead prosecutor in the two graft cases against Disini, said Mrs. Marcos will be asked to confirm her kinship with Disini's wife, Paciencia Escolin.

"We will call Mrs. Marcos to

the witness stand to establish that she and Disini's wife and the Marcoses' family doctor, Paciencia Escolin, were first cousins. This is in relationship to the allegation in the information that the accused took advantage of his close relationship with President Marcos," Olague said.

21 names submitted

The Marcos widow's name was on a list of 21 witnesses submitted by the prosecution to the Sandiganbayan First Division in their pre-trial brief dated Feb. 20.

Disini has been charged with graft and corruption of public officials for allegedly paying kickbacks in the millions of dol-

lars to Marcos and for receiving hefty "rewards" for brokering the contract for the planning and construction of the power plant for Burns and Roe, a US engineering and construction company, and Westinghouse Electric Corp.

\$2.3-B total cost

Construction of the plant started in 1975 and it was finished in 1984, but the cost had gone up from the original \$600 million to \$2.3 billion as a result of the alleged kickbacks and overpricing of other components of the project.

Despite assurances from the contractors, the Aquino administration refused to operate the nu-

clear plant after a study recorded over 4,000 "defects."

Lucrative contracts

Government prosecutors claimed Burns and Roe gave Disini \$1 million for his efforts while Westinghouse allegedly shelled out \$17 million.

In addition, they said that two companies, the Energy Corporation and Engineering and Construction Company of Asia, supposedly owned by Disini and Marcos, received lucrative sub-contracts for "mechanical and electrical construction" in the nuclear plant project.

Disini has posted P54,000 bail bond for his temporary liberty.

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2000 plane crash suit to be heard in US

By Judy Quiros
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—THE TRIAL OF A class suit against an affiliate of the US aircraft company Boeing is expected to begin "soon" in Chicago, according to two American lawyers pursuing the case in behalf of the families of 131 people killed in the Philippines' worst air disaster.

Donald Nolan, lead counsel of the victims' families, told reporters yesterday he and his associates would prove to the court that the Boeing 737-200 that crashed on Samal island with 131 passengers and crew aboard on April 19, 2000, was

defective. The plane had been leased to Air Philippines by the Illinois-based AAR Airline and Engines Corp.

"The company's duty is to make sure that any aircraft they lease is in good condition to ensure the safety of passengers," Nolan said.

Cook county court

His colleague, Manuel Ribbeck, added: "We will be trying to prove the negligence of the defendant when the trial begins."

The case has been filed in the Cook County Circuit Court in Chicago, which held a preliminary hearing last Dec. 12, the

lawyers said.

Nolan and Ribbeck were in Davao to discuss the status of the case with some of the relatives of the crash victims.

Flight 541 had come from Manila and was trying to land at the old Davao City airport when it crashed on Samal island, just off the city in the Davao Gulf. All 131 people aboard were killed.

Gov's kin were victims

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, who has been in the forefront of the campaign to sue AAR, said they were also trying to recover missing pages of the logbook of Flight 541. He said the missing pages might have

contained maintenance records for the aircraft.

Piñol's sister-in-law and his two nieces died in the crash.

Ribbeck said one issue that should also be settled is the compensation that AAR should pay the families of the victims.

Equal compensation

"The value of payment to Filipino victims should be equal to victims from other countries," he said.

Piñol said they were told that AAR had offered to pay \$400,000 for each of the foreign victims in a previous crash abroad but were offering only \$25,000 for the Filipinos this time.

Activists seek end to ritual dog-killing in Benguet

By Jerome Aning

ACTIVISTS FROM THE PEOPLE FOR THE Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) want the provincial government of Benguet to scrap a law that allows indigenous Cordillera communities to butcher dogs for their meat and skin.

To put pressure on top Benguet officials, Peta has launched a letter campaign urging animal lovers around the world to express their disgust at the practice through e-mails to Benguet Gov. Borromeo Melchor.

"Please help us save countless dogs from agonizing, cruel deaths by sending [him] a quick note. Please remind the governor that tradition is no excuse for cruelty to animals," Peta said in an "action-alert" spread through cyberspace by its organizers.

On Nov. 7 last year, the 10-man provincial board passed a resolution that would exempt indigenous people from national laws prohibiting the sale and consumption of dog flesh.

Peta wanted Melchor to veto the resolution.

The board's action apparently was in reaction to police raids on markets and restaurants serving dog flesh and cited the indigenous population's right to engage in the ritual use of dogs.

"Tell the governor that, with all due respect to other cultures' customs, this merciless practice has no place in the civilized world in 2006 and that, if it goes on unabated, it will severely compromise the image of the Philippines," Peta said.

Peta's campaign was expected to trigger another flood of angry letters from around the world to the provincial capitol.

In passing the resolution, the board's members cited Section 6(1) of Republic Act No. 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act, which allows exemptions to the killing of dogs "when it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion or sect or a ritual required by tribal or ethnic customs of indigenous cultural communities."

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Senga: Military council will never happen

By Dona Pazzibugan

"THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN."

Coolly but firmly, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said he would never agree to a plan hatched by allegedly rebellious senior officers to install a "military caretaker government" if they succeed in ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo through a withdrawal of support.

The INQUIRER, quoting insiders, reported that the plan last Feb. 24 was for military elements led by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to withdraw support from Ms. Arroyo, and then for a military caretaker group to take over and force the immediate holding of elections.

According to the report, Senga was part of the plan as he was supposed to head the caretaker government, which the rebels refused to call a junta.

Senga said he had not heard of a plan about a caretaker government until the INQUIRER sought his comments Friday night.

Never heard

"I have not heard of that. It's the first time I've heard that," he said in a phone interview. "I have not talked to anybody. I'm not part of anything. I'm just doing my job," he went on.

Senga said he would never agree to

lead such extraconstitutional setup, knowing his own limitations.

"I'm not capable of running government. Even if it's for a day, two days, three months, that's all the same. And who am I to even entertain such an idea?" he said.

Asked if he would be tempted by such an offer, he promptly replied, "That will never happen."

Senga said he ignored all attempts by anti-Arroyo groups to talk to him. He said retired Army chief Fortunato Abat was among those trying to talk to him. He did not name the others.

Senga said he believes there are deliberate efforts to destabilize the Armed Forces, citing rumors that circulated since January about his supposed resignation, a military plot to install Senate President Franklin Drilon as president, and "strained ties" between him on one hand and the President and Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. on the other.

He said the persistent rumors were meant to destroy the AFP. "Once the AFP gives in, it will be chaos," he said.

According to the INQUIRER story, Lim, Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda met with Senga on the eve of the Feb. 24 supposed withdrawal of support.



SENGA: "I'm not capable of running the government."

Miscalculation

But Senga said he only spoke with Lim and Querubin that night. Miranda joined the emergency meeting that Senga later called to try to talk Lim and Querubin out of going through with their plan.

Asked why Lim and Querubin would reveal their plans to him, Senga simply said, "They miscalculated me."

Esperon, when reached for comment, accused the INQUIRER of provoking a fight among the top brass.

He refused to comment and instead issued this statement through Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro: "Gen. Esperon's firm stand to quell the plot has nothing to do with his alleged involvement in the 'Hello Garci scandal' but rather because of his firm commitment to his constitutional duty and in compliance to orders of Gen. Senga."

Bacarro said that "the insinuation that the AFP leadership, particularly the CSAFP (Chief of staff, AFP) and the ma-

ior service commanders, had differing views/stands as to the events that unfolded, is untrue and unfounded."

"The AFP leadership has not vacillated in their commitment to support the Commander in Chief. Under the leadership of Gen. Senga, the AFP has always remained true to its commitment, loyal to the Constitution and committed to protect it from any destabilization," he added.

Senga said he had "good working relations" with Esperon.

Not vacillating

Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy, yesterday denied allegations that only Esperon had opposed the plan to replace Ms. Arroyo with a military caretaker government.

"That's an unfair statement. The chain of command was intact, starting from the Commander in Chief to the chief of staff. We cannot exist without a Commander in Chief—without the President," Mayuga told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"The article makes it appear that we were vacillating. That is not fair. We are following the chain of command. That story is sending wrong signals to the troops. It's confusing the men in the field," he said. With a report from Fe Zamora

Now it can be told: Who's who in civilian council

From page A1

Eddie Villanueva, were considered for the council.

But De Villa, a former AFP chief of staff, reportedly threatened to quit if exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison were allowed to sit in the council to represent the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the INQUIRER source said.

"E di kayo na lang diyan," the source, who was among the troops who planned to join the Feb. 24 march, quoted De Villa as saying.

According to the sources, Lacson was also in a bind because "he wanted to run in the snap election," violating a condition prohibiting council members from seeking elective posts as proof of their "purity of intentions."

Advisers

To complete the new interim administration, a group of advisers, possibly comprising former President Corazon Aquino, former President Fidel Ramos, retired Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat and even former President Joseph Estrada, in case he was cleared of the plunder charges, would also be created.

First edict

For its first edict, the council, composed (initially) of three to five members, would rule the results of the May 2004 election "null and void," declare the positions of President and Vice President vacant and call for a snap election at the earliest date possible, the sources said.

The declaration would be followed by a cleansing of the bureaucracy, especially the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to ensure a fair and honest elections, the sources said.

"That is the patriotic intention of the council," the source said, adding that the "work agenda was more important than the personalities."

'Get her out first'

He said the idea of a "collective leadership" was the result of a study and consultation made by the various groups who agreed to join the movement against Ms. Arroyo.

"The important thing is to get her out first," he said.

The source said

the effort to bring in Senga to head the council started days before Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim reportedly bared his plans to Senga that he was joining the people's march on Edsa on Feb. 24.

Primer on council

"General Senga was given a primer on the transition council with the program of government for the first 100 days. We don't know if he read it," the source said.

A former Arroyo official who crossed over to the opposition said that De Villa and Orbes "talked" to Senga about withdrawing support from Ms. Arroyo.

Just like Angelo Reyes

It would be reprising what the then AFP chief of staff Gen. Angelo Reyes did. His breakaway in January 2001 resulted in the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

"There is no law that says

withdrawal of support is a crime," the former Arroyo official, who is also a lawyer, told the INQUIRER.

He said this would explain why Lim was "so confident" in telling Senga about the plans of the junior officers to march at Edsa on Feb. 24, and his own plans to join the march.

De Villa, who had already denied a role in the so-called conspiracy, declined an INQUIRER request for an interview, saying he

needed to focus on his sick wife.

In the event that Senga refused to head the council, then a military oversight committee would be created along with the council, the sources said.

The military faction did not "realize the extent of infiltration" until the Feb. 26 standoff at the Philippine Marines headquarters.

Fair trial for GMA et al.

Aside from the snap election,

another top item on the agenda was a "fair trial" for Ms. Arroyo, Virgilio Garcillano, Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante and others who have been linked to the corruption and electoral fraud scandals under the Arroyo administration.

The sources said the trial of former President Estrada and the Oakwood mutineers would continue and would be resolved also within a given date.

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Milosevic found dead

THE HAGUE - FORMER Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, known as the "Butcher of the Balkans," was found dead in his cell Saturday, the United Nations tribunal trying him for war crimes and genocide said.

"Today, Saturday March 11, Slobodan Milosevic was found lifeless on his bed in his cell at the UN detention unit in Scheveningen," said a statement by the court in The Hague.

"The guard immediately alerted the detention unit officer in command and the medical officer. The latter confirmed that Milosevic was dead," the court said in a statement.

The court launched an inquiry into the death.

A full autopsy and a toxicological report have been ordered, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said.

Milosevic's family was informed of his death, it added.

But Russia's Interfax news

agency quoted the brother of Milosevic - Borislav Milosevic - as saying the tribunal in The Hague "carries full responsibility" for the death.

Milosevic, 64, had been on trial before the UN court since February 2002 on more than 60 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the 1990s Balkan wars.

He was facing separate genocide charges related to the 1992-95 war in Bosnia.

Milosevic, who defended himself, never recognized the court's legitimacy and refused even to make written submissions.

He defied international sanctions and NATO bombs over nearly a decade of strife in the former Yugoslavia and was unmoved by the accusations against him.

He stoked conflicts that left more than 200,000 people dead, up to three million homeless and the Yugoslav economy in ruins.

But the burly firebrand made no apologies for his actions in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo, where his drive for a Greater Serbia "cleansed" of Croats and Muslims sparked a rash of grisly massacres and finally a showdown with the West.

"I'm proud for everything I did in defending my country and my people," he told US television network Fox News in a phone interview in 2001 from his jail outside The Hague while he was awaiting trial.

"All my decisions are legitimate and legal, based on the constitution of Yugoslavia and based on the rights to self-defense."

Milosevic was the first former head of state to appear before an international criminal court and faced life in jail if convicted. But he portrayed himself as a besieged statesman who struggled to keep the crumbling Yugoslav federation intact against separatists and "terrorists." AFP



TOP UP PROFESSORS

Six faculty members of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, were awarded recently the Gawad Chanselor Natatanging Guro for excellence in teaching. They are shown with UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio S. Cao (center). They are (from left) Prof. Bronne C. Dytac, college of architecture; Prof. Ruben D. F. Defao, college of fine arts; Dr. Arneurina D. Santos, college of science; Dr. Dina Joana Ocampo, college of education; Dr. Emmanuel S. de Dios, school of economics, and Dr. Caesar A. Saloma, college of science.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf bomber nabbed

By Nancy Carvajal

A SUSPECTED ABU SAYYAF MEMBER ALLEGEDLY responsible for a series of bombings in Mindanao and Metro Manila which killed more than 100 people was arrested on Friday in Valenzuela City.

The suspect, identified as Ali Ambing, was nabbed in his hideout in Barangay Arkong Baro by joint elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group led by Chief Insp. Wilfredo Serrano and the Quezon City district intelligence group led by Supt. James Brillantes.

Seized from the suspect was a duffel bag containing military and police uniforms, materials for improvised explosives, pictures of

suspected Abu Sayyaf bomb squad members, including Madznu Ladja.

"The suspect would be brought to the Naval Intelligence Task Force for confirmation of his identification," said Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan in his report submitted to National Capital Region police chief Director Vidal Querol.

Radovan, when contacted by the INQUIRER, confirmed the arrest but declined to give additional.

The report said the arrested Abu Sayyaf suspect was responsible for the preparation of the explosives used in the Superferry blast on Feb. 27, 2002, where more than 116 people were reported killed.

It also said that Ambing was one of the primary suspects in the blast at a videoke bar in Malagutay, Zamboanga City, on Oct. 2, 2002, that killed a US serviceman and three Filipinos.

Ladja who was also allegedly involved in the Malagutay explosion is now detained at the Bicutan jail.

The report said the suspect was also involved in the Fort Del Pilar blast and the Valentine's Day bus bombings in Makati City in 2005.

The police report said that the Ambing was spotted in the company of two unidentified persons at a mall along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City at around 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Sensing the presence of operatives, the report said, the small group broke up and scampered away in different directions.

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FBI to aid PNP

A TOP US FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation official on Saturday offered assistance and training to the Philippines' anti-crime and antiterror campaigns, police said.

FBI Deputy Director John S. Pistole held a closed-door meeting Saturday with Director General Arturo Lomibao and other senior officials of the Philippine National Police in which he was briefed on the government's efforts to combat al-Qaida-linked terror groups, the Muslim insurgency and an alleged emerging alliance between communist and military rebels.

"He expressed full satisfaction over the gains we have been making in the fight against crime and terrorism and offered the FBI's full assistance, particularly in terms of training and the grant of modern crime-fighting tools," Lomibao said.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said Pistole was also scheduled to meet with officials of the National Bureau of Investigation and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency "to touch base with them and discuss some of the issues in law enforcement cooperation and counterterrorism cooperation that's going on between the US and the Philippines."

Chief Supt. Ernesto Belen, director of the PNP crime laboratory, said they submitted a "wish list" to Pistole that included modern forensic equipment to handle chemical, biological and nuclear incidents, DNA analysis and drug detection, plus training. AP

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OPINION

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Arresting lies

APPARENTLY, THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE'S short stint as media overseer of The Daily Tribune has gotten to its head. Now police spokesmen feel they can insult our intelligence with Orwellian language games.

The day after the televised arrest of Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, for leading a protest rally on the occasion of International Women's Day, the police chief of Metro Manila, Director Vidal Querol, tried to tell us not to believe what we had seen with our own eyes.

"Who says she was arrested? She was taken out of the rally site because of an impending dispersal," Querol said, with a straight face. This economical version of the truth does not square with the facts, or with Baraquel's revelation that a police officer had told her she was being arrested on charges of "illegal assembly 'ata." Facts are exactly like street demonstrators: They are inconvenient, but can be easily routed.

Querol said the decision to remove Baraquel from the scene was emphatically altruistic. "She was taken out of danger," he told reporters.

Well, the party-list representative was not exactly spirited out of the rally site; she was bodily carried off it, and against her will. Facts, mere details. Small wonder the act of forcing her into a waiting police vehicle like a common criminal did not bother Querol or his conscience. He described the act, blithely, as mere "police assistance."

Apparently, Baraquel needed such police assistance to protect her from the permit-less street protest's imminent police dispersal. "She could get hurt," Querol said. "She might be wounded and get bloodied. All the more the police would be blamed."

To make sure the public got his drift, the unrepentant Querol repeated his, ah, creative misuse of language. He pledged to render police assistance to Baraquel every time she attends a rally without a permit; "we will do that over and over again to take her out of danger."

In his totalitarian fantasy, "1984," the great George Orwell invented Newspeak, political language designed to subvert meaning (the war department, for example, is called the Ministry of Peace). But the clearest exposition of his views on political language can be found in the classic essay from 1946, "Politics and the English Language."

"In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible," Orwell wrote, exactly 60 years before Querol's daring doublespeak on behalf of the impossible-to-defend. Orwell then defined the essence of that defense: "Political language has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness. Defenseless villages are bombarded from the air, the inhabitants driven out into the countryside, the cattle machine-gunned, the huts set on fire with incendiary bullets: this is called pacification. Millions of peasants are robbed of their farms and sent trudging along the roads with no more than they can carry: this is called transfer of population or rectification of frontiers."

Or, to add Querol's contributions to the political lexicon: A member of Congress, with constitutionally guaranteed immunity from arrest, is arrested for leading an anti-administration rally without a permit; this is called taking her out of danger, with some police assistance.

Orwell again: "The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns, as it were, instinctively to long words [e.g., calibrated preemptive response] and exhausted idioms [e.g., protect my votes], like a cuttlefish spouting out ink."

To be sure, Querol is not the only high official guilty of the use of doublespeak. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor defends the indefensible by calling the Hyatt 10, once the moderate members of the Arroyo Cabinet, the true hardliners. And the President herself defends the indefensible by describing the act of calling an election official a mere "lapse in judgment." Querol, in other words, was merely using the administration's *lingua franca*.



Freedom in chains

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Sunday of that proclamation still in the present tense may not really have been a mistake after all.

The continued threat of Proclamation No. 1017 is the reason why the petitioners against it are asking the Supreme Court to squarely rule on the constitutionality of the order as against the claim that its formal withdrawal by President Arroyo has rendered it moot and academic. They feel that their challenge should not be conveniently dismissed as no longer viable because that ruling, while technically correct, would nevertheless ignore the realities of the present situation.

This brings to mind my own experience on a similar question that was raised in *Evelio Javier vs. Commission on Elections*, 144 SCRA 194, which was raffled to me in 1987. After making an initial study of the case, which the old Supreme Court had purposely sat on, I recommended that we grant the solicitor general's motion to dismiss it on the ground that it had become moot and academic.

Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee thought differently, however. He felt that the new Supreme Court should take a categorical stand on the important issues raised in the petition and its historic significance on the subsequent downfall of the Marcos dictatorship. We should, he suggested, "give a message" to the nation of the mission and methods of the new Judiciary. I saw his point and so began my *ponencia* with the following justification:

"The Supreme Court is not only the highest

arbiter of legal questions but also the conscience of the government. The citizen comes to us in quest of law but we must also give him justice. The two are not always the same. There are times when we cannot grant the latter because the issue has been settled and decision is no longer possible according to the law. But there are also times when although the issue has disappeared, as in this case, it nevertheless cries out to be resolved. Justice demands that we act then, not for the vindication of the outraged right, though gone, but also for the guidance of and as a restraint upon the future."

The Supreme Court has every right to ignore the above observations as mere obiter, considering the many serious questions awaiting its decision. The challenge to Executive Order No. 464, for example, is still unresolved since it was filed five months ago to seek the intervention of the high tribunal in the serious constitutional dispute between President Arroyo and the Senate.

The usual ploy of the military when sued in habeas corpus proceedings is to simply release the detainees and then move to dismiss the petition for having become moot and academic. The motion is usually granted. This might also be the practice of President Arroyo in trying to get off the hook where the cards appear to be stacked against her, as in that pending case.

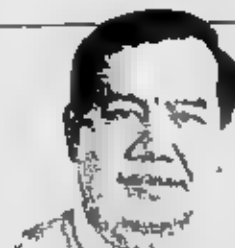
Such a solution would also be welcome to the 14 incumbent justices of the Supreme Court, 12 of whom are appointees of President Arroyo. These beneficiaries would naturally avoid annoying and embarrassing the person who is the principal reason they are sitting on the highest court in the land. Hopefully, however, they are stalwart justices whose first loyalty is to the rule of law and will boldly vote, for or against GMA, only as their conscience bids them.

Let's wait and see—soon.

Are you listening?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbas, SVD



ONE TIME IN A PARTY, I HAPPENED TO BE seated beside a person who had an "I" disease. He kept talking about himself, so I just kept quiet and listened. After a while he realized that he was monopolizing the conversation, so he told me: "Ah, Father Orbas, you are so quiet. Why don't you say something *naman*...about me!"

In today's Gospel (Mk. 9, 2-10) we read about the Transfiguration of Jesus before His disciples. Peter, so overwhelmed by the experience, starts talking about his plan to build three tents there, whereupon he is interrupted by a voice that says: "This is my beloved son. Listen to Him."

The key to real transfiguration for us is listening. If we really listen to God speaking to us in prayer and in the signs of the times, we open ourselves to transfiguration and transformation.

Transfiguration is not something that is bragged or talked about. Rather it is something that shows; and it bears four evident fruits: honesty, humility, hard work and holiness in life.

HONESTY. Someone who really listens to God can't help but be honest because before God, nothing is hidden. We can fool others, we can fool ourselves, but we cannot fool God. It can happen that someone can be very prayerful but still goes on lying, cheating and stealing because he or she is not really listening hard enough. Such a person, more often than not, is listening to the evil one who specializes in rationalizations and half-truths.

HUMILITY. As far as I know, it is usually others, not we ourselves, who point out our own goodness. In my 53 years in this world, and 25 years as a priest, I have met a lot of people who impressed me, but those who inspired and touched me most were those who

knew how to fade away in humility. Great people know how to be humble and how to let go and to let God.

Still on the topic of humility, someone said that if you want God to laugh, tell Him your plans. If you want God to laugh some more, tell Him your plans for others. And if you want God to laugh in disbelief, tell Him your plans for Him. It is lack of basic respect and humility when somebody uses God's name to push one's personal agenda in this world.

HARD WORK. A person who truly listens to God knows that all the talking will amount to nothing if there is no doing. God never said that it will be easy. All He said was that He will be with us. There are no shortcuts; there is no easy way as we go about working for the Lord. Hard work is not what is published in the papers. Hard work is that which is presented to God in prayer, in hidden-ness, in humility and in gratitude. Let us learn from God: If He made a photo-opportunity out of everything and everyone, He would not have been able to work, at all.

HOLINESS. A person who really listens to God begins to follow God in the path of holiness. He begins to know the value of sacrifice and self-denial, both of which end with self-emptying. There are people who are prayerful and devotional, but they are not holy at all because their holiness is just a put-on. Religiosity is not the true measure of spirituality. As long as it is still "I, me and

myself" in a person's heart, there is no place for the divine and the holy.

"Listen to Him." This is a very good reminder for all of us, especially for those who have big responsibilities. With so many voices and noises all around us, we must really listen and ask: "Lord, what is your will? What do you want?" And may our response be, "Lord, thy will be done. Yes Lord, whatever you want!"

I am amazed at how some people are willing to give up anyone and anything just to hold on to money, power, fame, positions. I can imagine the comfort, ease and pleasures that come along with their lot, but I can't help but wonder how much stress and strain they encounter in their holding on. Maybe, it's a great life, but not a good life, without much thought on the after life. A text message said it beautifully: "Strange how people can be so preoccupied with a life we can not hold on to, and neglect an eternity we can't run away from."

Inviting you to a "Dinner for a Cause" on April 8, Saturday. The gathering will start with a Mass at 5 p.m. at Christ the King Seminary, B. Rodriguez St. Blvd., Quezon City. Proceeds from this fund-raising activity will be used for the repair and improvement of our castle-like building in time for its Diamond Jubilee celebration. We, your priests, will serve as waiters in the said dinner. For inquiries, please call 726-5002 to 04, 412-1241, 412-1242, 722-5684 and 721-7457.

Inviting you for a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje from May 13 to 25. For inquiries please call 5238581 to 88 and 7217457.

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, in prayer, help me to really listen to you and to your people and not just to myself. Amen.

Cash and coups

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, THE PLACE TO SHOP was a mall called Cash and Carry in Pasay City. It had the best of imported goods at reasonable prices and no one ever asked if taxes and duties had been paid for all the imports on display. Neither was the place raided by government agents—except for sporadic shakedown visits—to determine any lost revenues or how, in the first place, the goods had gotten out of the waterfront in commercial quantities. A lot of the items available were also brought in by airline crews coming off international flights. If you wanted something not available at the moment, arrangements could be made for pickup at some later date.

Last week, in the aftermath of an aborted coup—some people say it was not a coup but a planned withdrawal of support for the government by AFP elements—it was revealed that the Saludo Sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation, headed by Manuel "Beaver" Lopez, ousted President Estrada's son-in-law, donated P3 million to a cooperative of Philippine Marines, on the basis of a solicitation letter from Ma. Flor Querubin, wife of Col. Ariel Querubin. The letter was picked up at her home by a representative of the foundation and the donation was delivered to the Querubin residence. According to news reports, similar amounts were also donated to the Scout Rangers and the families of the Magdaia group of detained junior officers.

I realize that our men in uniform can use all the financial help that may be offered by grateful citizens who are aware of their sacrifices and their needs. But there are certain aspects of these particular transactions that are disturbing. From time to time, in the armed forces, there are all kinds of fund-raising activities which involve soliciting donations from business firms or individuals. But these are generally limited to soliciting equipment for facilities, merchandise for raffle

prizes, the selling of bingo tickets or tickets for movie benefit screenings or golf tournaments and sometimes cash in the amounts of P50,000 to P100,000 for organization funds.

This is the first instance I hear of donations in the amount of seven figures to special units like the Marines or Scout Rangers. The question in my mind is: Do other AFP units like, for instance, our engineering battalions which are involved in civic action programs beneficial to the community, also get the same attention? If they have a solicitation letter, would representatives of these donors pick up the letter themselves and then deliver the donation to the unit? How about AFP hospitals and dental facilities—have they received such generous contributions in cash?

Perhaps, it is time for the Armed Forces leadership to take a closer look at this matter and then lay down the rules and regulations that should cover similar transactions. It would also be interesting to determine how widespread are the solicitations being undertaken by individuals on behalf of AFP units, and what the guidelines are for the use of these funds from private entities. This is a responsibility of the AFP considering that the donations are being made to military organizations.

The profession of arms has always been a noble calling. It has always stood for sacrifice and service. Because of the power of the arms that we bear, we must ensure that our guns are not for hire or for sale to anyone or any group, including

government itself. They are to be used solely to protect our people—not necessarily people in government. Otherwise, we become mercenaries or soldiers of fortune beholden to the highest bidders or the highest officials of the land. And when this happens, our uniforms are forever stained, our credibility comes under a cloud, and our integrity irreparably lost.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has announced there will be no amnesty for "habitual delinquents." But we all know that amnesty is a political tool whose use will be decided not by the AFP but by the political leaders of the land. After the 1989 coup attempt, there were also similar calls by the AFP leadership but, in the end, reconciliation and national unity became the main arguments of the government in the grant of amnesty to coup plotters.

These days, we are developing a vocabulary all our own about coup d'état. If the plot against government succeeds, it is a coup. If it fails, it was a planned withdrawal of support for the government which did not materialize. Incidentally, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, this type of action was "institutionalized" by Gen. Angelo Reyes and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001. Reyes has since gone from AFP chief of staff to defense secretary to interior secretary and now environment secretary.

One thing is clear: It all boils down to success or failure. Those who win are hailed as the defenders of the Constitution. Those who lose are branded "misguided elements" out to destabilize the administration. From the look of things, there is still no end in sight to the problems confronting the AFP. Until questions of legitimacy and abuse of power—as symbolized by the "Hello Garci" controversy and the fertilizer fund scandal, respectively—are finally resolved, restiveness in the ranks will continue.

Middle-class and angry

I RECENTLY WROTE IN THIS COLUMN ABOUT A couple of letters from "members of the Filipino middle class" expressing their feelings regarding the anti-GMA protests and how "ordinary" folk were fed up not just with traffic disruptions caused by rallies, but also with constantly feeling angry and judged as "apathetic."

In that same column, I reprinted excerpts of a response from Enteng Romano of the anti-GMA Black and White Movement. Imagine my surprise when I received a response in turn from the author of one of the letters. It turns out that I know him personally! He is Bong Austero, a human resources expert who is president of the Board of Trustees of the Remedios AIDS Foundation, of which I am (ahem) vice president.

Here's Bong's letter with minimal editing, mainly for length. Readers who wish to read the open letter that started it all may log on to bong-austero.blogspot.com

YES, I am the S. C. Austero who wrote that open letter that caused this whole furor. I wrote that letter Sunday evening, right after the "standoff" at Fort Bonifacio was supposedly resolved. I wrote it in an hour's time. I wrote it for my blog, and sent it to 20 of my closest friends... I am amazed that that letter has gone around the world, been read on television, published in many newspapers, and dissected in many online fora.

As far as I know, there are only two letters of the same nature that are going around. My letter, and a letter in Tagalog supposedly written by someone speaking for the "middle-class." I guess it is true, the battle has shifted to cyberspace.

The point is this: I am not a paid hack by Malacañang. And the hundreds of people who forwarded that letter and posted it on many online discussion groups, and defended that letter fiercely (even on INQ7) could not be paid hacks by Malacañang—there are just too many of them. I continue to receive lots and lots of e-mails from people all over the world. The percentage is telling, although I would not say it is

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



representative of the general population: 97 percent expressed support, 3 percent dissed that letter. You are right for giving it the benefit of the doubt, there is a mass of people out there who shared the sentiments of that letter, picked it up and forwarded it to the world. Nobody told them to do that. They did that on their own.

RINA, these people exist. They are real. And my sense is that they are even angrier now because their existence is being dismissed matter-of-factly.

There are reasons why I have decided to cast my lot with the President despite the fact that I simply do not like her. You can say that this is "conditioned" and "temporary" talking of sides. There is a moral "marginalization" being perpetuated by some people who are so convinced of their righteousness and speak with such sanctimoniousness, they have succeeded in alienating people. That is what did it for me. That simply was the tipping point. There is something glaringly wrong with the way civil society is conducting this fight.

Enteng Romano, whom you quote in your column, does more of the same—he mocks us for being angry. What is so wrong with being angry? First, we are dismissed for being immoral and for conniving with a thief. And now even our emotions are subject to ridicule?

There are those who bring in the "class" perspective to the whole issue and then accuse me of dividing this country. They scoff at me for being supposedly so "middle class in orientation." For the record, I am a child of a farmer and a public schoolteacher and I went to college on scholarship.

BUT what does it matter if I am middle class or

if I am a peasant, if I live in Forbes Park or in Tondo? Does that increase the weight of my opinions? Does that give me more—or less—rights as a citizen? This condescending attitude towards the middle class—or towards people who disagree—is alarming.

And then are those who insist that because I wrote so convincingly, I must be a paid hack. I am flattered that my writing style is being praised, but I am a simple work drone with an 8-5 job, a teaching stint at nights and weekends, and a foundation to oversee.

But I choose not to nitpick with those who disagree with my letter. If people disagree with me, by all means they should disagree. They are free to do that. I certainly concede that there are people out there armed with a more incisive mind, better debating skills, or more comprehensive propaganda material (all of which I do not have at the moment), who can cut my letter down to pieces.

They can out-fact me, they can out-argue me, they can out-debate me. That still does not make me wrong. I would like to clarify: I did not claim to be legally, intellectually, morally, ideologically correct in that letter. I said I was angry. I said I was sick and tired. I said I want to move on already. I think those are valid personal emotions. I do not need people to tell me why I am angry, or why I am so wrong to be angry, and then call me immoral, unpatriotic, naïve, and stupid simply because I happen to have a different perspective.

This moral "exclusionist" point of view is exactly what turned me off. That was the point of that letter. I just had it with people who kept on preaching about why we should not forget the evils of the past while linking arms with Imee Marcos and JV Ejercito. I just had it with people who advocate only one standard of morality: their own. They continue to do that by calling me names and inferring motives and dismissing people like me. I have news for them—that won't make me or the others like me disappear. In fact, it is exactly that condescending attitude that drives people like me to the other side.

Ideals and betrayals

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



cos regime represented for our people. It remains a vital goal.

The message that Cory Aquino symbolized in 1986 was that basic political freedoms and human rights must never be sacrificed at the altar of economic development. That message—the message of liberal democracy—became the driving force of Edsa I. The program of re-democratization that Edsa I jump-started was unfortunately hijacked early by the impresarios of traditional politics. Instead of building the foundations of a liberal constitutional order on an empowered polity and on new and expanded forms of democratic expression, the Edsa State paved the way for the return of oligarchic politics. The nation found itself mindlessly returning to the security offered by the familiar.

The excesses of a rentier economy driven by elite politics not only constrained economic growth, it also aggravated mass poverty. More and more poor people were excluded from the circuits of the nation's life. The accumulation of the grievances of the poor in the mid-90s prepared the way for the emergence of Joseph Estrada, the movie actor who championed the cause of the underprivileged in countless movie roles.

The presidential election of 1998 became the battleground for the revolt of the poor. Instead of feeding the underground communist insurgency, the resentments bred by mass poverty were harnessed by a movie icon who felt comfortable in the world of patronage politics. The election of Estrada on the basis of the campaign line "Erap para sa mahirap" (Erap for the poor) drove home

the powerful message of social solidarity. That we cannot have a country that consigns the majority of its citizens to a life of degradation and hopelessness.

Soon enough, however, Erap's presidency became synonymous with corruption, profligacy, and misgovernance. While these sins were nothing new in the nation's political life, the revolution they generated reinforced the modernist impulse of good governance. A young and better educated middle class thought they deserved better and more competent leaders. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to the presidency in 2001, as a result of Edsa II, was fueled by this ideal. She exuded intelligence, youthful exuberance and a modern grasp of the challenges of a global age.

As it turned out, all of that was a veneer for what was still basically a pre-modern presidency. Rather than strengthen governmental institutions and insulate them from vested interests, Ms Arroyo methodically corrupted and made them the instruments of her own personal ambition. What she has done to the Armed Forces of the Philippines probably best exemplifies this. The partisan role that key officers of the AFP were made to play in the 2004 election is unprecedented in its magnitude. Instead of overseeing the orderliness and fairness of the election, these military and police officials were deployed to make sure the election returns would go Ms Arroyo's way. This is fairly well known within AFP circles. This is also what the Garci tapes reveal. All the key players have been abundantly rewarded with promotions and cushy positions.

Development, freedom, social justice, and good governance—together, these four ideals constitute our modern utopia. That our past leaders have routinely betrayed them does not diminish their brilliance. The light they cast may yet help us find our way through these confusing times.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Shine on, Baby

BOY AND GIRL ARE BEST FRIENDS. BOY TEASES; GIRL nags. They grew up together. They can finish each other's sentences. They have no qualms at sharing hotel rooms. Boy is in love with Girl.

Girl is in love with The Other Guy, and spends hours moaning over his picture. Boy laughs at the obsession. Then The Other Guy notices Girl. They hit it off.

Boy is supportive, but seething inside. Girl is confused—she should be happy with The Other Guy, but something is missing. Boy confesses his love, then walks away. In a grand moment of revelation, she realizes she's in love with Boy. She is torn.

REBEL
WITHOUT
A CLUE

Patricia
Evangelista



The Other Guy does all in his power to make her happy. She realizes it is impossible. She says goodbye. The Other Guy is hurt and angry, but realizes he never stood a chance.

Girl leaves The Other Guy but is afraid Boy has gotten over her. She finds him waiting. There are blurred confessions, a thousand if-onlys, and a soft kiss under a ceiling of stars.

"I-fell-in-love-with-my-best-friend-and-she/he's-in-love-with-someone-else" is one of the oldest plots in a very much abused book, right up there with "We-come-from-two-different-worlds and Ugly-duckling-turns-swan." Of course, a clichéd plot doesn't automatically make a bad story make, as "Pretty Woman" and "My Fair Lady" have proven. Hollywood has "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "Someone Like You" for the best-friend angle. The love triangle appears in a thousand other movies.

In recent Philippine cinema, Claudine Barretto holds the record for the heart repeatedly torn asunder. She's been fought over by Rico Yan and Dominic Ochoa, Rico Yap and Dieter Ocampo, Dieter Ocampo and Jericho Rosales, and just recently by Aga Muhlach and John Lloyd Cruz. Judy Ann Santos is no slouch—she's been caught between Piolo Pascual and Leandro Muñoz, then is again plagued with doubts about her relationship with JC Cuadrado after meeting a longer-haired, albeit much the same Piolo Pascual in the recent "Don't Give Up On Us."

My theory is that somewhere in the sacred sanctum of movie moguls, there's a guy in a suit shooting darts at random at actors' names. This year, there are three new holes on the dartboard, bringing us the newest triangle on the silver screen. In "Close to You," Bea Alonzo is torn between "a habit and a dream"—John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby respectively.

Poor, sad girl. If I were only so lucky. I managed to make it to the last full show last Monday. I had my backpack checked (on the off-chance I'd forgotten to leave my back-up explosives and caliber .45 pistol at home). The guard was more interested in my bag of takeout. He passed over the burger, the chicken sandwich and the four pies when he slapped his hand over my palabok special. I was gearing up to fight for my God-given right to greasy calories when he pointed at the new "No sign" (no chicken, no sauces, no pasta inside the theater). So naturally I batted my eyelashes, flipped my hair, and smiled. (For the sake of my ego, I will insist the guard was gay.) Needless to say, I wasn't in "happy mode" when I finally trudged into the theater.

It took only a couple of minutes before I was giggling in my seat. The plot is a given, this time: Marian (Bea) is Manuel's (John Lloyd) best friend. She's long been obsessed with popular band Orion's lead singer—Lance (Sam) of the sparkling eyes and brilliant smile. Lance comes to the Philippines on a publicity tour, and Marian chases him around the country with the reluctant Manuel in tow.

The script is great, but it is the actors who really carry off the movie. I'd like to state for the record that John Lloyd Cruz has just taken over Johnny Depp's throne in my heart. What could have been a forgettable role became the charming, endearing performance of an incredible actor. In Dumaguete, he gleefully strips off his shirt and bounces shrieking into the pool. The combination of disbelief, reluctant admiration, irritation and self-consciousness on his face when he sees the rippling-muscled, golden-skinned freak that is Sam Milby is one for the books, along with the muttered "Guwapo na, pare" (or something like that) under his breath.

Bea Alonzo plays the nagging—dangerously close to annoying—best friend but manages to keep on track and be appealing. Sam Milby's character is not as developed as John Lloyd's—Lance, in one word, is nice—but he makes it very easy to believe why he's supposed to be the hottest talent to hold a guitar. It's a movie that makes you involved. As one of my friends said, it forces you into Marian's dilemma and the choice between two unbelievably likable men. The fact that my friend is a guy and straight must mean the movie has incredible powers—or it is that I know very, very little about my friends.

I have one problem with the plot. Marian chases Lance all over the country, from Davao to Dumaguete, and joins the hordes of fans at every publicity event. In most cultures around the world, that would be stalker behavior. But Lance, when Marian finally gets him to notice her, arranges a date, waits for her with a rose in his hand and presents her to his mother on the strength of a long-ago grade-school incident—where he chased away bullies plaguing her. Besides, the on-screen Lance is supposed to be a much-adored star whose face can launch a thousand female fantasies—why is Marian so different from the thousand other fans throwing themselves at his feet?

Of course, I'm willing to give the movie the benefit of the doubt. I hear that John Lloyd Cruz is in Cebu, and I'm still in the process of finalizing his hotel information. I've got his movie credits memorized, my luggage packed and my plane ticket booked. When I get there, I expect to be presented to his mother.

Johnny dear, I prefer tulips.

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Source of strength

"He will give you the means with which to cope with the challenge if only you believe."
—Southern Leyte Gov. Rosante Lores on drawing strength from God amid the tragedy that struck her province

All backlash

"The government got the backlash without sending the chill."
—Rep. Joey Salcedo, reacting to the government crackdown on media during the state of national emergency

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDED ON MARCH 8 THE filing of criminal charges against 17 people it considered responsible for the Feb. 4 stampede during the first anniversary of the "Wowowee" game show that killed 71 people and injured 957 others.

Twelve officers and employees of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and five people outside the network are facing charges of "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple injuries."

Most of the victims were elderly women from poor communities who had wanted to get into the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, hoping to win prizes—P1 million in cash, house and lot, two tricycles, two taxis and one jeepney.

THE SCIENCE OF

STAMPEDES

'Wowowee' a disaster waiting to happen

By Dr. Giovanni Tapang

NARROW EXITS, LACK OF COORDINATION, absence of exit plans, and pedestrian movement in multiple directions combined with a strong desire to reach an objective due to poverty are recipes for panic-induced stampede.

The collective motion of many similar objects interacting in a well-defined manner results in a variety of phenomena such as jamming in traffic and pedestrians, aggregate behavior in bacteria, and cluster formation.

An accurate knowledge of collective motion of confined pedestrians can provide insights into the formulation of effective strategies for managing crowd movement in a confined space and for designing efficient passageways.

Of mice and men

In simulation and actual experimental studies with mice, we have demonstrated that several factors contribute to panic-induced clogging or arching at exits or passageways.

Arching is the slowdown (or jamming) due to a significant reduction in the number of people who can exit from a confined area. The number of people is significant although clogging can occur even in rooms with 30 people given the right conditions.

One factor is the width and design of the passageway. Two gates positioned far enough from each other can minimize the size of the arches. However, doubling the number of gates does not necessarily double the throughput because of disruptive interference of paths.

This is when pedestrians cross each other's path while entering, as when observed when people try to enter a jeepney at the same time. Due to the same phenomena, doubling the width of the door does not automatically double the number of people passing through.

In the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) tragedy, extra gates and strong guided railings that facilitate queuing could have increased the throughput near the entrances and lessened the size of the arching.

Herding

Another factor is the herding phenomenon. Pedestrians tend to follow their nearest neighbor if they are not provided with a clear entrance and exit plan.

This phenomena was observed in experiments and in disasters where other exits were not used in panic situations and clogging occurred only at the main gates.

Exits are pointed out in aircraft and signs are placed in cinemas to address this effect. In the "Wowowee" tragedy, the people apparently were not given a clear plan on how to enter or exit the PhilSports Arena, thus contributing to rapid clogging at the gate.

'Faster-is-slower' effect

The biggest factor is the amount of panic of drive to reach the exit. The study has shown that increasing the "panic parameter" decreases the number of those who can pass through the passageway. The higher the drive to reach the exit, the lower the throughput you will have. This is the so-called "faster-is-slower" effect observed in simulations, derived from analytic equations and shown in experiments. It is obvious that those who came to "Wowowee" were hoping to get big cash prizes at stake in the show at this time of high unemployment, sinking wages, and rising costs of commodities and services due to the expanded value-added tax and off price hikes. This push of poverty was the final element in the recipe leading to the tragedy.

It could have been avoided if there were good planning and coordination and if there were none of the desperation of the people due to hard times.

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(Tapang, the national chair of the Samahang ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan, is assistant professor at the National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. E-mail the author at gtapang@nip-upd.edu.ph)

Alarmed at the huge turn out of fans, many of whom had camped out at the PhilSports gates for days, "Wowowee" personnel decided to give out 40 raffle tickets promising P200,000 worth of cash prizes to make the non-winning fans go home.

The plan did not work. A stampede ensued after the gate on Captain Javier Street was closed at 6 a.m.

ABS-CBN lacked "a clear-cut, comprehensive security plan, which included crowd control and contingency plans," the NBI said.

The "Wowowee" tragedy is eerily similar to the stampede that claimed the lives of 96 football fans in Sheffield, England in 1989. (See list.)

Knowing something about the science of stampede could have helped ABS-CBN save lives.

Four ways frightened mobs flee from danger—and how you'll die if you don't escape

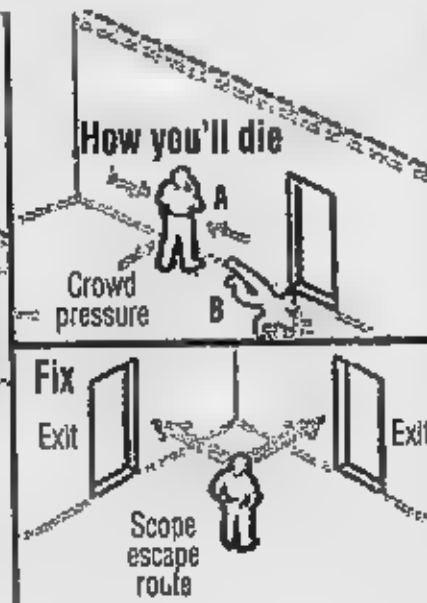
Set your emotional dial, for a moment, to panic: Someone shouts "Fire!" in a crowded theater. Your hands tremble, your pulse races, a cold sweat spreads across your back. You're trapped with hundreds of others. What would you do to escape? Scientists and architects think they know. They have long had mathematical models that predict crowd behavior, but testing was always a problem. Until recently in an article in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* [of the United States], researchers simulated a mass exodus by dropping mice into a tub of water. The models held up. The mice? Don't ask.

1. HERDING

WHAT HAPPENS: Disaster gives voice to your inner sheep; people follow a crowd to an open door even if other exits are clog-free.



CAUSE: Most people head for the door they used to get in. The Rhode Island nightclub that burned in 2003 had four exits, but most of the bodies were found around the front door.

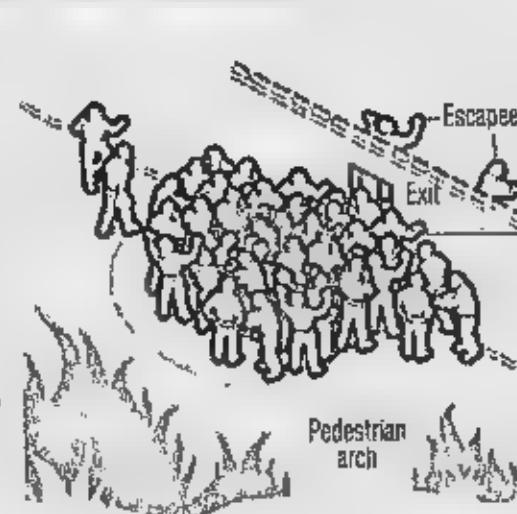


HOW YOU'LL DIE: A fleeing crowd pushes as one; the resulting pressure is like a back-walk massage from a sumo wrestler. Ribs crack, organs squish, and the air squirts out of your lungs like ketchup from a foil packet.

THE FIX: Scope out a couple alternate escape routes before disaster strikes—why do you think the nice flight attendant shows you the exits on an airplane?

2. PEDESTRIAN ARCH FORMATION

WHAT HAPPENS: It's the Three Stooges effect: The door is wide enough for only one, but everyone wants to be first. More stooges give you a semicircle of gridlock as everyone seeks the shortest straight-line vector to the exit.



CAUSE: People are sticky—they wedge into the area in front of the doorway like a cork. The exit clogs with intermittent bursts of escapees when force exceeds friction.

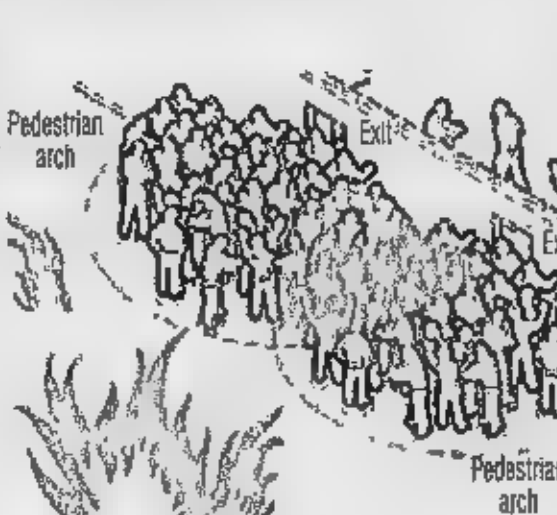


HOW YOU'LL DIE: Trapped behind injured neighbors or a nitwit who insists others go first, you'll be jostled in place like a grain of sand in an hourglass.

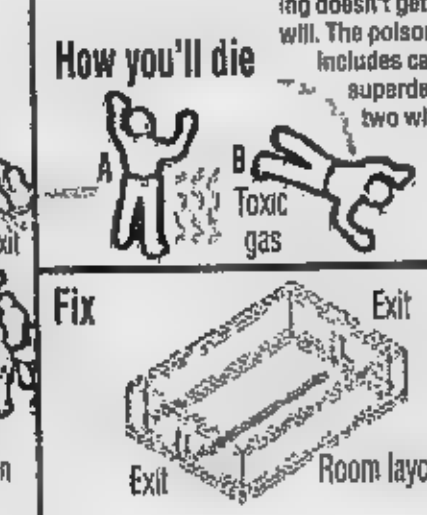
THE FIX: A column a few feet in front of the exit can help break up an arch, splitting the jam into smoothly flowing streams. Being first in line helps, too. Linger near the exits during a show isn't just cool. It can save your life.

3. DISRUPTIVE INTERFERENCE

WHAT HAPPENS: Two doors, two pedestrian arches—if they overlap, chaos ensues at the junction.



CAUSE: Your eyes are on the exit, not the bodies in front of you.

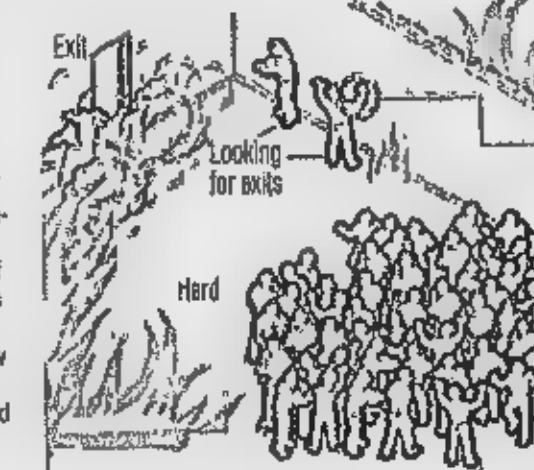


HOW YOU'LL DIE: In a fire, if the crushing doesn't get you, toxic gases probably will. The poisonous-fume hit parade includes carbon monoxide and superdeadly phosgene. "One or two whiffs of phosgene and you're down," says one firefighter.

THE FIX: Two doors are better than one, but arches can spread all the way across narrow rooms. Architects should put doors at opposite ends of the room. And if you're in the scrum, try not to freak out. The exit throughput rate drops as the panic level climbs.

4. WALL SEEKING

WHAT HAPPENS: Some of the herd peel off on their own; they end up creeping along the edges of the room.



CAUSE: Rugged individuals know that in the midst of a panic, the mob is the worst place to be. They also know that walls are inevitably interrupted by exits.



HOW YOU'LL DIE: Scared and alone. If you miss the exit or go the wrong way along the perimeter, whatever you're running from will get you. If too many individuals have the same plan, you'll bump into them, slowing your escape.

THE FIX: Better exit indicators—bright, flashing lights at exits and along floors; public address systems; and klaxons (loud horns for warning people).

SOURCE: WARD, JANUARY 2004

SOURCE: AFP

TOP 13 DEADLY STAMPEDES

since 1988

(By number of casualties)

1,426

July 2, 1990: Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrims, many of them Malaysians, Indonesians and Pakistanis, were killed of asphyxiation in an overcrowded pedestrian tunnel leading to holy sites.

1,000

Aug. 31, 2005: Baghdad, Iraq. More than a thousand pilgrims were trampled to death or drowned after panic broke out on a bridge over the Tigris River, sparked by a rumor that two suicide bombers were among them.

364

Jan. 12, 2006: Mina, Saudi Arabia. At least 364 people were killed during the hajj (pilgrimage).

340

April 18, 1997: Mina, Saudi Arabia. Fires driven by high winds tear through a sprawling, overcrowded tent city, trapping and killing more than 340 pilgrims and injuring 1,500. Aid workers and diplomats said the death toll was at least 500.

270

May 24, 1994: Mina, Saudi Arabia. The pilgrims were killed as crowds surged forward during the "Stoning of Satan" ritual in Mina, the desert plain outside Mecca. Authorities blamed the record numbers of pilgrims attending the hajj.

257

Jan. 25, 2006: Satara, India. They were killed during a Hindu pilgrimage in the district south of Bombay.

251

Feb. 1, 2004: Mina, Saudi Arabia. Death came during the hajj.

150

Aug. 13, 1994: Brazzaville, Congo. At least 150 people, mostly children, were trampled to death or suffocated following an evangelical session in a church.

126

May 9, 2001: Accra, Ghana. They were killed in the capital city following a football match.

118

April 9, 1996: Mina, Saudi Arabia. At least 118 pilgrims died and more than 180 were injured during the "Stoning of Satan" ritual. The pilgrims mostly from Indonesia and Malaysia, died when the parapet of a bridge gave way.

100

March 12, 1988: Kathmandu, Nepal. More than a hundred people were killed and 300 injured during a football match in the National Stadium. The tragedy occurred when spectators rushed to find shelter from a powerful hailstorm, but found the doors locked.

96

April 15, 1989: Sheffield, England. The Liverpool supporters were crushed to death and around 300 injured at the Hillsborough Stadium during the semi-final of the FA Cup between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Police had opened the doors at one entrance to allow around 2,000 people without tickets to enter the stadium, crushing others in the stands.

90

Oct. 15, 1996: Guatemala City, Guatemala. Some 90 people were killed and 150 injured at the Mateo Flores Stadium during a World Cup qualifying match between Guatemala and Costa Rica. The stadium was built to accommodate 45,000 people, but held around 60,000.

INQUIRER *Mindanao*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Water project checks 'lumad' child deaths

By Edwin O. Fernandez
Ampatuan, Maguindanao

FOR A LONG TIME, SOME 200 TEDURAY, Manobo and Maguindanaon families in the mountain village of Saniag in Ampatuan, Maguindanao had drawn water for drinking from the Cauran River, as well as fished for food on their tables.

Little did they know that what they had regarded as a source of life was also a scourge to the community.

Many people would not believe that the river also brought diseases and, worse, death.

"Many would not believe that Cauran had been killing children," said Ungga Anggay, chair of the Saniag Teduray, Manobo Ancestral Domain Claimant Organization (Stemadco).

In 2002, Anggay, 49, found it difficult to convince his constituents to help install a potable water system from two springs. The project, he said, was the "cure" to the diseases that had long been disturbing the villagers.

Since the water system, costing P454,000, was completed late last year, the incidence of water-borne

diseases in the community dropped significantly, from an average of 10 cases every month to two.

"Before the project was established, the occurrence of diarrhea and amoebiasis had been frequent," said Joel Dizon, monitoring officer of the Cotabato City-based Kadamtaya Foundation Inc. (KFT).

Kadamtaya and Stemadco jointly put up the potable water project with the assistance of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). The funds came from the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project, through the PBSP.

Salido Panalon, 52, a member of the six-member project monitoring team, said in the vernacular: "The morbidity and mortality rates were so alarming that we had to immediately source out funds if we were

to stop the deaths of children."

The project involved the construction of two water impounding units designed to accumulate enough pressure to supply two reservoirs that distribute water to 11 clustered communities.

Water was supplied by two natural springs uphill and 3.5 km from the community, said Panalon, a Maguindanaon resident of the village who worked with the KFT when construction was then underway.

Now, safe and clean drinking water is enjoyed by about 200 families, Anggay said. In each cluster community, 18 to 24 families share a faucet. The majority of the beneficiaries are Teduray natives; the rest are Manobo, Ilonggo, Ilocano and Maguindanaon peoples.

"We are not claiming there are no more water-borne diseases in Saniag,

but we are very proud to say that over the past two years, this water system project has already saved at least 20 lives," Anggay said.

Before the NGOs and the PBSP identified the area as a project beneficiary, the villagers had been drawing drinking water from foot-deep shallow wells dug along the banks of Cauran River.

Among their common complaints, aside from diarrhea and amoebiasis, were skin allergies and irritations.

"We refused to believe then that the diarrhea and vomiting commonly experienced by the children and the aged were caused by the water," Anggay said. "But when this project was completed, statistics glaringly proved us wrong."

The villagers pay P5 a month for the project's "wear and tear" and help in the maintenance and cleanliness of

the water sources.

With water already available, the "lumad" women formed a livelihood group called the Umfongay de Libon Tagna Taw d'be Saniag g'ne (Ultas), a Teduray phrase meaning "Organization of Lumad Women in Barangay Saniag."

"Because of the potable water system project, we did not only prevent more children from dying but it (project) also made household chores so easy and fast for us that we have enough time to discuss how we could help improve our welfare and that of the community," said Sally Bainsgan, 27, a mother of three.

Ultas is implementing a "food-for-work" gardening project on a hectare of land, tapping irrigation water from pipes to their vegetable garden. Each member earns at least P800 a month from the produce.

TEDURAY women and their children in the remote village of Saniag in Ampatuan, Maguindanao perform a thanksgiving dance to celebrate the bountiful harvest of a livelihood they have been busy with. The traditional dance is performed after a day's work of harvesting the crops.

EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ



Bak2bak: 'Babuyan Island' and 'Isa Pang Kawing'

By Christine F. Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

SEXUAL POLITICS AND SCHEMES BY TWO women on how to survive were some of the major themes in the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology's (MSU-IIT) resident theater company, Integrated Performing Arts Guild's (Ipag) production of Bak2bak.

The two plays by two of MSU-IIT's resident playwrights, Steven Patrick C. Fernandez and German V. Gervacio were a joint venture between Ipag and the MSU-IIT AB English Dramatics & Stagecraft class.

Carlos, convincingly played by Orwell Theodore Obach in Gervacio's "Babuyan Island" drew attention to one movie writer's struggle to write while the movie was on a location shoot in the Batanes Islands.

The set filled with all the clichés of the writer's room: A typewriter beside a cassette player, one decrepit table, an old chair, a garbage can of crumpled pieces of paper spilling over the floor, an ice bucket crammed with canned beer, an opened suitcase, a folding bed and a dead cockroach beside it.

Innuendos

The play opens with the writer typing away when his mobile phone rings and is told his mother was being rushed to a hospital. The play turns exciting when the movie starlet, Toni (played by Phoebe Gayanelo alternating with Pricyelle Aguilar) steps into the writer's shack to engage Carlos in a mind game replete with sexual innuendoes of borrowed dialog and titles from the movies that paralleled their own lives.

Conversations rise and fall as Toni opens her heart, then, suddenly, punctuates all this with kisses on the lips of the indifferent, I've-seen-everything-and-done-everything Carlos.

For all the sexual dialog and the flirtations of a shabbily dressed and nervous actress

around a spread out folding bed, the expected bang finally happens when Toni, pregnant by her pervert lover of a movie director shoots the director.

The shooting is done offstage, however, and so much for Fernandez's classicist background, the audience learns about the shooting when a bloodied Toni reappears on stage seeking comfort from Carlos.

Sexual politics

The next play, "Isa Pang Kawing," a revision of Fernandez's serious play, "Kawing" (Maranao-Maguindanao for marriage) explores sexual politics between scions of politically powerful families married for political expediency. Fernandez's play like Gervacio's relies on quick, well-paced dialog between two persons trapped in a loveless match.

The groom, a lawyer who has ambitions to run for town mayor in the next elections, learns his bride is three months pregnant by her previous boyfriend. If such happens in real life given the couple's tribal affiliations, the bride has to be killed before family honor is restored.

But the play offers a twist. Definitely sympathetic to a woman's plight, Fernandez's woman character, Aya, in "Isa Pang Kawing" proves to be more cunning and fearless than the groom. Aware of tribal laws herself, she blackmails her husband to force him to accept her pregnancy.

Whatever bravado the groom possesses at first in dropping his pants and his vain attempts to pin his bride on the bed in his floral

HerBench briefs, played sensitively and effectively by Hobart Savor, an appreciative audience immediately grasps the tight situation.

The groom goes jelly before the audience when his photos with his gay lover are shown to him by his bride played by Lara Fatima Maglinao alternating with Xyza Pyr Consul.

In this play, the gun fails to go off

on stage or off stage, all right, because Fernandez had successfully set its irony in high relief.

If Gervacio's dialog in "Babuyan Island" is teasing and painful, Fernandez's is frank and full of ironies. The exchanges between the two sets of characters peak in "Isa Pang Kawing" because its ending is more definite for an audience aware of the play's cultural implications with what new and old stones they must have heard about "gi-buyn" couples (couples in arranged marriages).

Interestingly, both plays are about women who solve their problems in the way they know how, like aiming for a man's balls and pulling the trigger. The women in both plays triumph over their relationships with men who had the tendencies to blur myth and reality.



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2. Two (2) 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" colored ID pictures;

3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:

- For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from OSA and one from the Dean of the previous college;
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- Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. **Duly accomplished application forms.** The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of **ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.**

NOTE:

ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day

APPLICATION SCHEDULE:

Monday thru Friday (9-12 NN; 1-4 PM); Office of the Dean

EXAMINATION SCHEDULES:

8-12 AM - March 12, 2006 and April 2 & 30, 2006

VENUE OF EXAMINATION:

Reading Room of the Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building.

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Bulacan execs condemn Left slayings

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULACAN GOV. JOSEFINA de la Cruz on Saturday denied taking a posture of silence over the series of political killings in the province, the latest of which involved a Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) leader.

De la Cruz said provincial board members on March 6 approved a resolution condemning the series of slayings even before Bayan Bulacan Chair Crisanto (not Santiago as earlier reported) "Ka Santi" Teodoro was killed on Thursday night.

She said the resolution also asked Bulacan police officials to investigate these cases. Bayan records showed that Teodoro was the 20th leader or member of militant groups murdered in the province since last year.

De la Cruz said the resolution was awaiting the approval of Vice Gov. Aurelio Plamenko, the board's presiding officer.

Barber, Fr. Rolando de Leon, spokesperson of the Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Kanapetan, described Bulacan as "killing fields" of militants due to the series of slayings that he blamed on the military.

Leaders of militant groups in the province also assailed De la Cruz and other provincial and police officials for their supposed silence amid the attacks on political activists.

Jerry Albert Corpuz, an official of the fisherfolk organization Pamalakaya, said De la Cruz should ensure that political activists and members of militant groups in the province get protection from the provincial government.

"De la Cruz is politically obliged and is constitutionally mandated to protect her people, whether they are ordinary people or political activists," he said.

But De la Cruz said she had initiated "successive mediation" among cause-oriented and militant groups, religious organizations, military and police officials.

She said in February, she convened the parties to dialogue under the auspices of the regional peace and order council (RPOC), which she co-chairs.

In the RPOC dialog, she said she advised Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, whom militants suspected as behind the killings, to meet with Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros and talk about the issue.

"I know the Army is blamed but I don't want to make accusations at the moment until there's proof," De la Cruz said.

She said she had instructed Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, provincial police director, to submit a preliminary report on the murder of Teodoro.

Bayan Central Luzon Chair Roman Polintan said the killings intensified when Palparan assumed command of the 7th ID on Sept. 1 last year. *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ALIEN EQUIPMENT

A US Navy landing craft air cushion (LCAC), a military equipment alien to the Philippine Armed Forces, arrives at a remote beach in Panamao in Jolo, Sulu during military exercises between Philippine and US soldiers.

TROY MALCOLM/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

UP tests show no mercury in Sorsogon fish

LEGAZPI CITY—THE SANGGUNIANG Panalawigan of Albay has requested the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) district office here to investigate the cause of the fish scare that gripped the towns of Prieto Diaz, Gubat and Bacon district in Sorsogon.

The request was made following findings that fish in these towns were safe from mercury, contrary to earlier reports that they had been contaminated with mercury.

Tests made by the University of the Philippines-Natural Sciences Research Institute (UP-NSRI),

dated March 1, show that water and fish from around Rapu Rapu Is. and Sorsogon are safe for human consumption.

The UP study reinforces the five previous studies of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) that the mercury

contamination of Sorsogon fish and waters near Rapu-Rapu as alleged by antiuming groups never existed. The allegation scared people from buying fish, resulting in a drastic drop in the income of 5,000 Sorsogon fishermen.

The Albay provincial board said someone should answer for the fish scare, especially since it was found that it was not caused by contamination from the Rapu-Rapu operations of the Lafayette Mining Inc. (LMI).

In a resolution authored by Vice Gov. James Calisin, the board said the second laboratory tests showed a high mercury content in the waters of Sorsogon, which triggered the "fish scare" that fish and marine products were not fit for human consumption.

"We need to know who brought the samples (that showed high mercury levels)," Calisin said.

The fish and water samples that were found with high mercury content were reportedly not obtained by BFAR personnel but brought by the local government of Prieto Diaz to the BFAR regional office for the laboratory examinations.

"This drew doubts and suspicion that the fish samples that were brought had been contaminated with mercury," Calisin said.

BFAR's succeeding tests revealed that fish and other aquatic products in the area were safe for human consumption.

In a phone interview, Sorsogon Vice Gov. Antonio Escudero, who is likely to be subjected to the investigation, said he was ready to face and answer the charges being made by the board. *Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Ilocos Sur dad killed

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur—A councilor of Bantay town was shot and killed by two men at 12:45 p.m. Thursday in Zone 5 here, police said. Councilor Paul Lucero was with his wife Emma, a teacher of Bantay West-Central Elementary School, in their Suzuki Trooper when the two men fired at him, police said. His wife was not hurt. Lucero died while being treated at the Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital in Bantay. An opposition leader, Lucero was on his third term as a councilor. *Leoncio Balhin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Raid yields guns

COTABATO CITY—Government troops recovered firearms in a raid on a hideout of suspected Pantagon Gang kidnapers in President Quirino town in Sultan Kudarat on Wednesday. Col. Gerry Jalandoni, Army's 604th Infantry Brigade chief, said soldiers belonging to the 75th Infantry Battalion staged the raid at the hideout of Pantagon gang members in the outskirts of Barangay Tinaurigan. But the suspects escaped minutes before the raid, leaving two Garand rifles, a Springfield, two homemade pistols and a transceiver radio, he said. *Jeffrey Mañan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 soldiers dead in clash

DAVAO CITY—Communist rebels killed two soldiers and wounded four other government men in separate clashes in Southern Mindanao on Thursday. Col. Antonio Amodia, commander of the 404th Infantry Battalion based in Mawab, Compostela Valley, said two of his men were killed during an encounter with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Abudan in Mabin, Compostela Valley. Amodia identified the two slain soldiers as Pfc. Abdul Sarid and Pfc. Amara Ali. At about the same time, Amodia said policemen and soldiers clashed with NPA rebels in Baganga, Davao Oriental. He said two policemen and two soldiers were injured. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Car thief suspect falls

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested a suspected member of a car theft syndicate operating in General Santos, Sarangani and South Cotabato on Thursday. Teofilo Cardente, a resident of San Isidro village, was arrested in an entrapment operation, said CIDG regional director Senior Supt. Edwin Dioces. He said prior to Cardente's arrest, an informant told the CIDG that there was a man selling a motorcycle in San Isidro village. "CIDG operatives proceeded to the area and posed as buyers," he said. They confirmed that the motorcycle that Cardente was selling was the same motorcycle stolen in Polomolok, South Cotabato several days ago. *Aquiles Z. Zonilo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Kidnapper falls

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Members of the government's antikidnapping unit and the Traffic Management Group (TMG) in the Calabarzon region arrested a suspected member of a kidnap-for-ransom group in Pila, Laguna on Monday night. Edito Suyang, a native of Zamboanga City and a resident of Barangay Sampruhan, Calamba City, was arrested in Pila town, a police report said. The suspect is wanted for kidnapping and a warrant for his arrest was issued by Judge Roland How of the Parañaque City Regional Trial Court. He carried a P300,000 reward for his capture. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



POSTER MAYOR

Vilma Santos, actress and mayor of Lipa City, launched with Nestlé officials a nationwide milk education program for mothers and primary schoolchildren. *CONTRIBUTED PHOTO*

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Noli: GMA must address 'Hello Garci' scandal

From page A1
wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, suggesting cheating had occurred in the 2004 presidential polls.

At the height of the scandal, Ms Arroyo apologized over nationwide TV for what she said was a "lapse in judgment" in phoning an election official, whom she did not

identify. She said she merely wanted to protect her votes.

Although the President insisted that she won "fair and square" over opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. (since deceased), the scandal led to impeachment complaints being filed against her last year. But her allies in the House managed to quash the three impeachment cases.

Still, questions of legitimacy

continued to plague the Arroyo presidency.

Disenchantment

De Castro said he recognized that these questions would constantly be raised by those who were not satisfied with the way the President had addressed the "Hello Garci" scandal.

He also said he understood the disenchantment of a number of military officers and men

over reports that their superiors had succumbed to political pressure and were part of the cheating that supposedly marred the 2004 election.

De Castro also endorsed a proposed dialogue between the President and the soldiers as a means of addressing the restiveness in the Armed Forces.

But earlier, certain sectors in the AFP said that for the dialogue to be effective, the Presi-

dent should come clean on the "Hello Garci" issue.

Reminded that Loren Legarda, his political rival, had also accused him of cheating in the vice presidential election, De Castro said the former senator had yet to prove her accusation in her ongoing election protest.

He also pointed out that the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, had yet to rule on the matter.



DE CASTRO: Clear the air

GMA backs AFP no-amnesty position vs military rebs

From page A1

day that the crackdown on suspected coup plotters would inflame the "restiveness" among military officers and men and turn it "into action."

"He's done this before, in warning of bombings in Metro Manila," Defensor said of the senator in an interview with reporters in Malacañang.

"I'm not downplaying his information, but he should have given it to the proper authorities, like [the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces] I don't think he's helping this way because this is bad for the economy," Defensor

Defensor also said Ms Arroyo had given the AFP leadership the "leeway" to do what was necessary to strengthen the organization.

"The [AFP leadership] recognizes that these elements should not be treated with kid gloves," he said, adding:

"Disciplinary action based on their laws should be respected to prevent [coup plots] in the future. If this continues and we leave it alone, it will only get worse. If they are hard on these elements, these adventurists, it is only because they want to professionalize and depoliticize the organization."

Same situation

Defensor said that during the December 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration, then AFP chief of staff Biazon chastised an officer for taking

part in the plot to overthrow the government.

In Defensor's recollection, Biazon told the officer "that soldiers have no right to do that under the Constitution, and that their duty is to protect the Constitution and the duly mandated authorities."

"If soldiers wanted to exercise their right, Biazon told the officer, they should first resign from the military before speaking out because as long as they are in the AFP they should follow the chain of command," Defensor said.

"We are in the same situation we were in 15 years ago," he said.

Elite forces

Defensor said elite forces in the military were being targeted in the crackdown because they were the groups being wooed by the anti-Arroyo forces.

He said the anti-Arroyo forces knew that if they got the elite forces on their side, "it will show that they have strong backing for military intervention."

Defensor also tried to differentiate between the withdrawal of support from then President Joseph Estrada by then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes in 2001 and the planned withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo by officers behind the purported coup attempt on Feb. 24.

"[Reyes] did not withdraw support on a personal level; his withdrawal had the support of the entire AFP. You cannot just have individuals down the line coming out one by one and withdrawing support," Defensor said.

He recalled a meeting between the Ms Arroyo and the generals wherein she was told that they would "never tolerate treachery" among their ranks.

To stress the point, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement: "We have to enforce the rule of law. Amnesty or special treatment is no longer an option for uniformed adventurists engaged in habitual destabilization. Those who undermine the state must stand down or face certain justice."

'They broke the rules'

As many as 26 officers and men belonging to the elite Scout Rangers have reportedly been detained.

The investigation has also reached the elite Marine Corps.

Certain officers and men affected by the crackdown have sought a meeting with Ms Arroyo to explain their side, according to a Malacañang source privy to the request but who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

In Defensor's view, the crackdown is not aimed at making an example of a few officers but will cover all enlisted personnel and soldiers who participated in the supposed coup plot.

"I think everybody who is guilty will be affected, not because politically they do not like the President, but only because they broke the rules," Defensor said.

But he said he expected the crackdown to affect less than one percent of the military.



THE PATH MOST TAKEN by President Arroyo these days is the one from her regular roundtable discussion held at the Kalayaan Hall back to her office in the Palace proper. This is the route that allows her to communicate directly with the people. LYN RULLON

'Revolutionary' seeds clouds, collects Hello Kitty

From page A1

on trial for the Oakwood mutiny of July 2003. Neither is he a member of the Young Officers Union of the New Generation (YOUNG) that claimed responsibility for the bomb blast in Malacañang on Feb. 20.

Espino, 36, seeds clouds.

He is a rain-making pilot assigned to the 902nd Weather Squadron of the 900th Air Force Weather Group in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

10 outstanding soldiers

Recently, he was named one of the 10 Outstanding Philippine Soldiers of 2005 by the Metrobank Foundation for his rain-making missions in Regions 2, 6 and 7 at the height of the El Niño last year. Espino headed cloud-seeding operations which saved agricultural crops worth an estimated P50 million in Region 2.

"Being a rain-making pilot is a task I would take on anytime because it serves a wider purpose," Espino said.

He added that he had no time to gripe or complain, although he would appreciate additional funding "to increase the capability of our squadron, especially during dry spells."

Mind-reading device

Espino's office reflects his "revolutionary" attempt to stand out in the officers corps. His door is stamped with instructional materials for a mind-reading device he developed called the Agile Reader Last Existing Neuro Encoder (Arlene).

The device allows one to calculate a person's age, his or her cell phone number and other pertinent details by asking a few easy questions and writing down the answers as a row of numbers.

"Parti crush pwedeng malaman dito (I can even find out who a person's crush is)," Espino said.

He also developed a game based on the Bible, as well as games like Videoke Casino, Text Game, Portable Garage, AFP Military Game and Cardboard Calculator.

Hello Kitty

The walls of his office are plastered with praise for Espino and his many inventions. Prominently displayed is one from

former Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng who described Espino as the "Filipino Bill Gates."

But that's not the only reason Espino's office is considered revolutionary. Displayed are various stuffed toys like Hello Kitty, Snoopy, Winnie the Pooh, Kermit the Frog, Tasmanian Devil, Tweety Bird, Brat, Barbie and Monchichu dolls, among others.

He said he had more toys in his home in Lipa City in Batangas.

"One day, my child will inherit these toys," Espino said.

There are also posters of movies and concerts on the walls along with pictures of wrestlers and body-builders. Espino has varied interests, reflected in his choices of books on war, marketing, psychology, romance and technology.

He also has DVD and VCD collections of Disney films, and movies of Jackie Chan and James Bond. There is a wide-screen TV set which Espino said he bought with his earnings from his many inventions.

Still single

Asked if he had been given permission to decorate his office as he pleased, Espino said personal choices are allowed and respected in the Air Force.

According to Espino, his office was an extension of his home and his personality. "Ang office, kahit pa nasa military service ka ay extension din ng iyong pagkatao, kaya naniniwala ako na mas magandang magtrabaho sa isang opisina na alam mong kumakatawan sa kung sino ka (The office, even if you're with the military service is an extension of your personality. It's good to work in an office which embodies who you are)," he said.

Espino, who is still single, is on his 12th year in the military service.

He said he believes he represents the true image of the young officers in the AFP: Hardworking, steady and focused.

He explained that he had nothing against the junior officers in the AFP clamoring for changes in the organization.

However, Espino offered this word of advice to his fellow young officers: "If you are going to rebel, don't do it wearing the military uniform. It goes against what the uniform symbolizes."

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OFWs turn Batangas town into La Dolce Vita

By Volt Contreras

For More OFWs' stories, please turn to A Plus/ Page A19, the new PD section dedicated to our brothers and sisters working all over the globe.

MABINI, BATANGAS—IN just over a decade, a mountain village here has overcome rural poverty and is now fondly known as "Little Italy." And it's not because of any Batangueño spin to pasta dishes,

haute couture, or the Mafia.

A hard-earned slice of La Dolce Vita courtesy of overseas Filipino workers has steadily transformed Barangay Pulong Anahao into an unexpected pocket of comfortable, middle-class living.

Slopes where farmers' huts and shacks had long stood are now jagged with pastel-colored homes of glass and concrete, complete with iron gates, garages, and tended lawns.

If previous generations desperately relied on



WHERE farmers' huts once stood, affluent homes built by overseas workers, mostly in Italy, now line the streets of Barangay Pulong Anahao in Mabini, Batangas.

RAFFY JERMA

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the weather or the season's whim for their livelihood, today's residents coolly keep track of the peso-dollar exchange rate to forecast their next "harvest."

The silent heroes—actually heroines—behind Anahao's welcome face-lift are the scores of female OFWs who have found work abroad as domestic helpers, nannies, hospital aides, or factory workers since the '90s.

DH in Milan

The village population of just around 800 all most entirely depend on 251 migrant workers as per latest count, 98 percent of whom are in Italy, according to barangay chair and former municipal police chief Raymundo Magsino.

A "DH" is known here to be capable of earning P60,000 to P80,000 a month in that country, and even more if she's a "part-timer" who could serve up to three employers in shifts per day, the official said.

Such incomes were once unheard of here unless one was a big-time businessman or landlord, back in those years when "life was so hard," said Magsino, 59.

"The men raised crops like rice or corn, engage in kaingin (slash-and-burn farming), or work as farm hands in nearby towns or in (the neighboring province of) Mindoro," he recalled. "The women usually find work as (home-based) embroiders."

The OFW phenomenon has actually reached the village in two waves, the first being the recruitment boom for Middle East oil workers in the '70s.

Magsino noted, however, that just about 10 men from Anahao got hired then and the termination of their contracts after a few years made their economic impact on the village comparatively short-lived.

But by the early '90s, a new and bigger door has opened—this time especially for the women.

Manna Dolor, a jobless commerce graduate from a college in Batangas "took the chance (nakapagsapalaran)" and became the first Italy-bound "DH" from the village, Magsino recounted.

Dolor is now based in Milan and is married to an Italian. Gradually she was able to renovate her parents' home here, and helped her six sib

OFWS TURN A19

FROM A FEW THOUSANDS TO MORE than five million. This is the phenomenal growth of the number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

In 1975, when the overseas workers program began, some 35,000 workers were deployed. But as of December 2004, there were 3.6 million and 1.3 million "irregular" overseas Filipinos, according to the Commission of Filipinos Overseas' (CFO) Stock Estimate of Overseas Filipinos.

The OFWs also called "temporary" overseas workers in the commission's count include persons whose stay overseas is employment related and who are expected to return at the end of their work contracts.

The "irregular" overseas Filipinos are those who are not properly documented or without valid residence or work permits or who are overstaying in a foreign country.

The third category of overseas Filipinos in the study are the "permanent" overseas Filipinos, including immigrants or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay do not depend on work contracts. They number 3.2 million in 2004, bringing the total of number overseas Filipinos to 8.1 million.

With the big increase of OFWs, what started as a stop gap measure to ease local unemployment and poverty some 30 years ago, has become a major government program and a big factor in the country's economy.

Money sent by OFWs back to the Philippines amounted to \$10.7 billion in 2005.

Remittances sent through informal channels, like a worker's friends, acquaintances or other travellers, were estimated to reach \$1.7 billion. This makes estimated total OFW remittances in 2005 to be about \$12.3 billion.

It was the first time that OFW inflows breached the \$10-billion mark, equivalent to about half of the Bangko Sentral's international reserves. In 2004, OFW remittances sent through the banking system amounted to \$8.6 billion, up from \$7.6 billion in 2003 and \$6.9 billion in 2002. PDI Research

Aplus

METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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RP's tallest church rises in Pasig

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BECAUSE OF ONE MAN'S FAITH, THE SMALLEST chapel in Pasig City is being transformed into possibly the tallest church in the country.

Before its renovation, the over a century-old Santa Clara De Montefalco parish church could accommodate only 160 people. But now, the seven-story structure, although still unfinished, can hold almost 2,000 parishioners.

The P100-million structure in Barangay Caniogan is at least 57 meters high. According to the man who first dreamt of transforming the little chapel into a huge church, it is the tallest Roman Catholic church in the country.

"This church will be a good reminder to all of us that we can accomplish so much if only we work together," said Fr. Renier Llorca, Sta. Clara's former parish priest and church administrator.

Not easy

Fulfilling his vision was not easy. His superiors earlier doubted his dream of building a huge church, mainly because it was difficult looking for funds for the project through

donations from a not-so-affluent community.

Llorca's dream began to take shape when he was assigned as parish priest for the chapel in December 1994 when the Diocese of Pasig was still part of the Archdiocese of Manila.

The parish was housed in the smallest chapel in the city. Just like other chapels and churches, it was always crowded during the celebration of Masses.

Llorca said there were already 15 churches and chapels in Pasig which can hold around 150,000 churchgoers. But there are half a million devout Roman Catholics in Pasig City.

Posing a bigger challenge to the already crowded mother parish, the Immaculate Conception Church, was the continuing influx of people from the provinces.

"Those who couldn't get inside the church could no longer hear the Word of God. They were just chatting," Llorca observed.

So the idea was born: Why not build a church bigger than the mother parish? "But while working on the design, we thought of making the new church taller to fit its massive floor plan," he said.

Noli Bernardo, who had designed the St. Peter's Parish on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, was the architect chosen for the project.

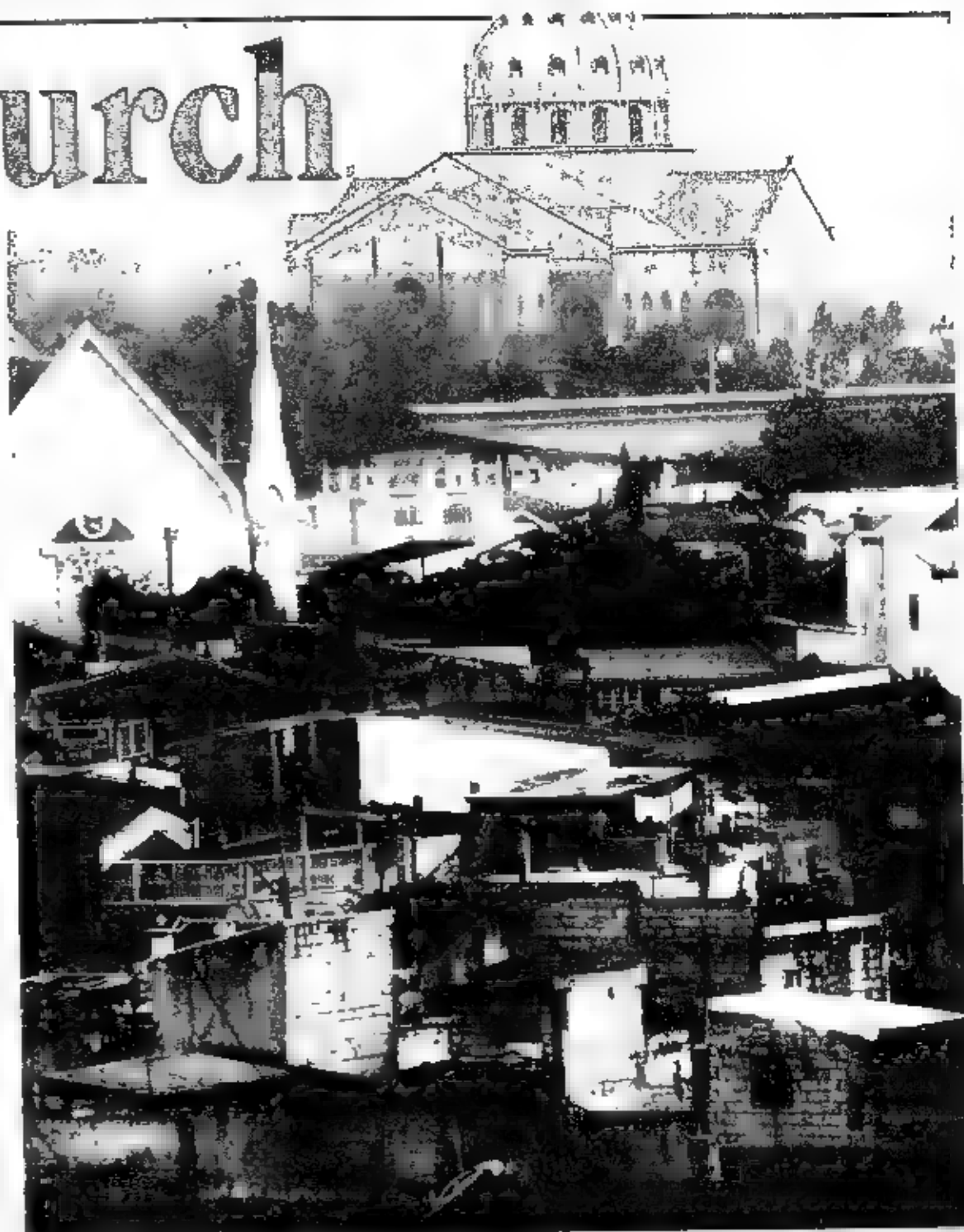
Impressive design

The final architectural design impressed Llorca: the new edifice would rise to at least 53 meters, with a four-meter-high cross sitting on the dome, set to dwarf the famous Redemptorist (Baclaran) Church in Parañaque City which, based on Llorca's own research, stood at about 52 meters.

"Then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin did not give me his blessing when we first asked for his permission," the priest said. "He thought the plan was very ambitious and he was worried about where we would get the funds to get it started," he added.

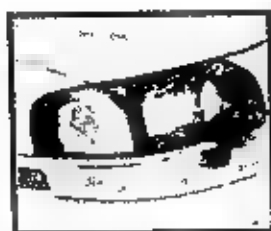
Llorca then decided to hold a survey in Barangay Caniogan, where

RP'S TALLEST/A18

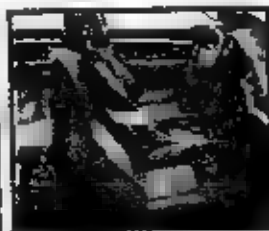


THE SANTA CLARA DE MONTEFALCO PARISH in Pasig City looms over nearby structures in Barangay Caniogan. The 57-meter high church is seven stories tall and can seat 2,000 people.

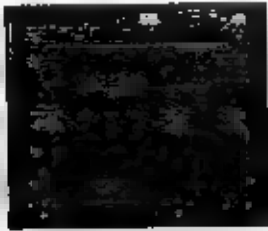
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First woman fire marshal bats for gender rights

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MARCH BEING FIRE PREVENTION and National Women's Month, who better to put in the spotlight than a woman who has been tasked with fighting fires in the southern part of the metropolis?

Meet Supt. Sofia Mendoza, district fire marshal of southern Metro Manila, the first woman in the history of the Bureau of Fire Protection-National Capital Region office to head a male-dominated workforce.

"I know that this is a tedious job but I accepted it because I want to open doors for other women firefighters," Mendoza told the INQUIRER.

She may be working in what she called "a man's world," but the 41-year-old Mendoza looks every inch a woman—from her long auburn-streaked hair to her manicured nails. "I always tell my female colleagues that we should never lose touch of our feminine side. I en-

courage them to tidy up and put on even a hint of makeup because after all, they are still women," Mendoza said.

Even her workstation at the Fire District 3 office in Makati shows feminine touches: a vase overflowing with bright flowers and a Pink Panther mug.

Mendoza's code-name is, incidentally, Pink Panther. The name given to whoever holds the position of District 3 fire marshal is 'Panther'. Since I am a woman, I am the Pink Panther," she said with a laugh.

A licensed civil engineer, Mendoza started as a clerk at the National Police Commission in 1987. Her supervisors, however, encouraged her to seek greener pastures through a lateral entry to the then Philippine Constabulary Integrated National Police which supervises policemen, firefighters and jail officers.

"My superiors told me that I could train as a police officer but I chose to become a firefighter be-



SUPT. SOFIA MENDOZA, southern Metro fire marshal: The feminine mystique at work behind the desk.

EDWIN BACASINAS

cause the job entailed engineering expertise," she said.

Baptism of fire

In 1990, Mendoza was assigned to Bacolod City as chief of fire operations. This was where she literally had her baptism of fire, fighting blazes right alongside other firemen, inhaling suffocating smoke and climbing up and down ladders, while carrying a heavy water hose. She also did her share of desk

work, first at the national office in Quezon City as the chief of the information technology unit. During her stint there, she developed the BFP's payroll system and initiated studies on human resource and geographical information systems for the bureau.

Mendoza was also assigned to the adjudication division where she helped increase women firefighters' awareness of their rights. In 2004, she was appointed deputy

fire marshal of the eastern part of Metro Manila.

Bigger responsibility

In June last year, she was given the responsibility of overseeing fire fighting operations in five cities: Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa.

"I love my job. It tugs at the heart when people suddenly come up to me and say thank you for saving their lives and

their property," she said.

Mendoza confessed to having a "domineering personality," saying, "This is what keeps me going in a man's world."

Despite her strict demeanor, she has retained a soft spot for other women firefighters, who remain a minority in the bureau, numbering only 500 out of the 15,000 firemen nationwide.

Eye-opener

Mendoza is not only a dedicated firefighter, she is also a staunch advocate of women firefighters' rights. During her stint with the adjudication board, her eyes were opened to sexual harassment cases in the bureau.

"But there are still many who keep silent because they are scared and threatened," Mendoza lamented. She sees to it that new women recruits undergo a seminar on gender development so they are aware of their rights.

"I want them to learn and know their rights at an early stage of their service so that they will not become victims of sexual harassment," she said. "If they know their rights, they will feel empowered."

Where is cleanest barangay?

LAS PINAS CITY IS LOOKING for the city's cleanest barangay, barangay halls, schools, daycare centers and police stations.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar said the contest, which will be launched in May, aims to promote cleanliness and inculcate the habit of waste recycling and

segregation among residents.

"It is high time that everyone should do their share in maintaining cleanliness to minimize the volume of garbage collected everyday to promote a safe and clean environment," Aguilar said. Winners will receive prizes and plaques of recognition.

Fowl ban in Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM bird flu-affected countries in Asia are not welcome in Makati City.

Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday announced a ban on the distribution and sale of fowl from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia to protect residents from the deadly virus.

Dr. Jacinto Inocencio III of the Makati Veterinary Service Office said they will be monitoring 15 public markets and six supermarkets in the city to ensure that only safe poultry products are sold to consumers. Those found violating the ban shall be "endorsed" to the police for proper action.



HELLO, SUMMER!

The signs are here, and no one knows it better than these children who beat the summer heat by taking a dip in a creek in Diliman, Quezon City.

JOAN BONDOC

RP's tallest church rises in Pasig

From page A17

the new church would be located. "Ninety-nine percent of those we surveyed said yes. We again asked for Cardinal Sin's blessing, and we said God would find the way," Llorca said.

He would still celebrate Mass at the old chapel on Sixto Antonio Avenue even as he personally supervised the land filling of about 11,230-sq. m of rice fields where the new church would be built two kilometers away.

After spending thousands of pesos filling the lot, Llorca decided to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in August 1996. But construction could

not yet push through.

"The owners of the adjacent lots also elevated their properties, leaving our compound at the lowest level. We had no choice but to fill up the lot again. We organized raffles and other fundraising activities to raise the money for the task," Llorca said.

Looking for another source of funding, his team thought of building an ossuary, where parishioners could buy niches for their dearly departed.

Llorca then set up a makeshift altar near the gate, holding Masses as if praying for the fulfillment of his dream.

Construction begins, halts

After elevating the compound to about two meters, the foundation of the new church was constructed in 1998, only for work to stop again after three months. "We had already spent about P3 million for the vertical construction. We had to stop because we ran out of money," Llorca said.

In the next two years, the project remained idle as Llorca and his team focused on raising funds. As the ossuary began to take shape, donations poured in little by little.

Llorca re-launched the project in 2000 and construction pushed through afterward.

After four years, the massive church was already standing. Though its interior had not been completed and the exterior still needed finishing touches, the new home of the Sta. Clara De Monte Balco Parish was inaugurated in May 2004.

The church has seven floors. The ossuary, named Santuario Del Amor Divino, is on the ground floor, right below the main altar on the upper floor. The completed ossuary, which area is still less than half of the planned 7,536 crypts, now holds 2,848 crypts.

The main altar on the upper floor faces a hall with a 2,000 seating capacity. Adorned with an equally huge retablo with intricate carvings worth P2 million, the main altar was a donation from a well-off parishioner.

There are 20 glass windows in the hall, ensuring enough ventilation for churchgoers. The dining and receiving areas are on the third level. The upper levels, still under construction, will serve as quarters for priests and church volunteers.

Llorca is also proud of the massive dome rising in the middle of the church. There are plans to paint a mural on the inner walls of the dome.

P50 million more

The project still needs about P50 million to be completed. But after building a P100-million structure by starting with nothing, Llorca is quite confident they can meet their goal. He still gets goose bumps at the sight of the massive dome, rising as if to reach the sky, an affirmation of a dream many thought was impossible a decade ago, a testimony to the power of devotion and faith.

BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Rizal St., Batangas City

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Batangas State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to submit their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Pedolina.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Presently a holder of a doctoral degree;
- Preferably 35 to 60 years old;
- Must be morally upright;
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academic or industry;
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines against him/her and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation;
- Sandiganayan;
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer;
- Previous Employer;
- Not convicted in any administrative or criminal cases.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed CV and certified supporting documents;
- Proposed vision, mission and thrusts of the University;
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution;
- Medical Certificate from a government physician.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before March 28, 2006 to:

MR. MARLON R. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of the Commissioner, S. M. Ocampo, JR.
CHED, 5/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 536-690
Telefax No. (02) 536-1993

BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
c/o MS. ROSE MAGSINO
Batangas State University
Rizal St., Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-0338

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St. Proj. 2, Q.C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Brgy. Pimentan, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Brgy. Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	House & Lot F/A 48 sqm L/A 198 sqm	L13, B15, AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 267,877.00
06-5	9 448 sqm industrial lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-6	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Sra. De la Paz Subd. Sumulong, Anipolo	P 892,500.00
06-7	241 sqm residential lot	L6, B11, Lopez Subdivision, Brgy. Tugbungan, Zamboanga City	P 20,485.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L6, B32, Phase II, Soldier's Hills Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-9	120 sqm residential lot	L4, B3, Kameha-meha St., Kingsville Subd., Anipolo	P 367,200.00
06-10	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Brgy. Cajimos, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-11	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Street Northmatrixville Subd., Calocan	P 509,320.00
06-12	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Park Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00
06-13	Block Making Machine "As-is, Where-is"	Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P 865,224.29

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on March 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI March 10, 11 & 12, 2006)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT

"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contract:

CONTRACT A		CONTRACT B
Home of Contract	Physical Installation for Intake Well	Construction of 2-unit reinforced concrete pumphouses and steel pump units for Intake Well
Location	Intake Well, Baguio City	Intake Well, Baguio City
Goal Description	The project involves the replacing of 12" Ø x 2.4 km steel Ø 12" x 1 m pipeline	The project involves the construction of 2-unit reinforced concrete pumphouses with steel pump units, noise walls and perimeter fence
Approved Budget for the Contract (BAC)	Php 7,006,511.50	Php 2,186,078.10
Contract Duration	35 calendar days	34 calendar days

Note: Bids for the above contracts shall be submitted separately. The above contracts will be awarded individually.

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the BAC, and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Form available for the procurement of the contract. The BAC will use a non-discretionary pre-qualification system in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification on the lowest calculated bid.

All requirements relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt and opening of bids (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and submission of Eligibility Forms	March 13-16, 2006
2. Submission of Eligibility Documents	March 26, 2006, 5:00 pm
3. Issuance of Results of Eligibility Check	April 4, 2006

The BAC will require Eligibility Forms to interested bidders upon the submission of a Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat at the Baguio Water District, Purok BND 003 Brgy. Maricorville Baguio City and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 1 mm Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) to the Baguio Water District Cashier. Interested bidders should submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address and an

Eligibility Form to the BAC at the same address.

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The Baguio Water District reserves the right to reject any and/or bids or not to award the contract in accordance with the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

(PDI Mar 5 & 12, 2006)

(Bgd.) Engr. SALVADOR M. ROYCEA

DAL, March 13, 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@pdi.com.ph

Editor Gerry Lirio

Starting today and every Sunday, this section is dedicated to the Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

OFWs make waves from belly of luxury ship to top deck

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

FROM BOILER ROOM TO ballroom, from stage to spa, from poolside to pantry, from bar to fine dining. From the belly of the luxury ship to the topmost deck where one could see forever and behold the azure sea and sky of the Mediterranean.

Overseas Filipino workers (OFW) rule the roost, so to speak, aboard the cruise ship *Brilliance of the Seas* because of their sheer number and also because of their skills, talent, dependability and graciousness. Filipinos comprise about 60 percent of the 853-strong crew that is composed of 51 nationalities.

"Here I earn the combined salaries of four teachers and three security guards in the Philippines," reveals Jerry Dioneo, 36, who works in the dining section. Dioneo who hails from Slay City in Negros Occidental has been on the ship for about three years and is on his fourth contract. Only the Filipino nationals, Dioneo adds, are compelled to allot and remit 20 percent of their earnings to their folks back home. This is stipulated in their contracts.

And what is work like on cruise days? "Every day here is a Monday," Dioneo chirps as he replenishes the cornucopia of food for the guests.

Victoriano Camacho, 46, of Calamba, Laguna, has been with the cruise company for 16 years and is now the sous chef (assistant of the executive chef). He started out at the Nikko Hotel in Makati. Now he earns \$2,600 a month.

\$1.7 billion of the total \$10.8 billion remitted by OFWs in 2005 came from the sea-based OFWs. The number of Filipino seafarers working abroad as of 2005, is about 250,000 or approximately 20 percent of the world's total.

'White List'

The rise in the number could be attributed to the inclusion of the Philippines in the International Maritime Organization's "White List" of 72 accredited countries. Being on the list means the country has continuously complied with the standards required for competent seafarers.

Being a Filipino seaman or seafarer does not necessarily mean working in cargo ships sailing drearily on a gray sea and being cooped up, fighting ennui until land appears.



BAR server Vergie Mompil hopes to have a thriving hardware store someday. Ceres P. Doyo



OYE COMO VA! Vicky and The Holding Company holding the audience in line. Ceres P. Doyo

on the horizon. A good number of the sea-based OFWs work in cruise ships. These luxury liners cater to vacation-bound, fun-loving, adventure-seeking humans, people who work hard and play hard, or who just want to be out of reach and listen to the music of the ocean, heeding the cruise logo catchphrase that says, "Get out there." One could also choose to get holed up in the ship's library.

The three-year-old German-built *Brilliance of the Seas* belongs to a fleet of cruise ships of the Royal Caribbean International (RCI) that sails in Europe, North America and the Caribbean. It has a passenger capacity of 2,500.

The Filipino seamen and women working on board are there to help make good things happen. The job is demanding as cruises involve service, hospitality, food, fun, travel, safety and, most of all, people.

Earning from tips

Bar server Vergie Mompil, an education course graduate, has spent eight years working on several cruise ships. Her husband, Edwin Vicerio also works in another cruise ship, *Jewels of the Sea*.

Those in food service are not paid the fixed salary rate that workers in other sections receive. Food and drink servers like Vergie receive only \$50 per 12-day cruise but the tips (provided for in the bill) earn her about \$1,000. Two cruises per month or more than ten cruises in a six-month contract mean a lot when remitted to the Philippines. "After six months, we go on a two-month break," Vergie adds.

Vergie is stationed at the bar in the main lobby ballroom at the foot of a luminous stairway where guests in formal wear linger to chat or dance to music provided mainly by—you guessed it—Filipino musicians.

Vergie and her husband have a three-year-old child who is being cared for by two aunts. The couple is building a home south of Manila and planning for a hardware store.

Not everyone is in the direct employ of RCI. Hoffman Roscano, 27, married, works as a photographer of a photo agency that operates aboard the ship. He and several photographers have their hands full during formal dinners and evening activities as well as land tours. During special occasions, they set up a mini studio where guests in their glittering "Titanic" finery could go for a formal shoot. Guests snap up the photos the morning after. Roscano also

receives commissions from the sales.

'Better than 5-star salary'

Karen del Carmen, in her 20s, works as a beauty therapist in the *Brilliance Day Spa* operated by an agency. A tourism graduate of a college in Bacolod, she had a work stint in a hotel in the Philippines after which she applied in a maritime agency. The spa company hired her and sent her to London for training.

"Better than a five-star salary," is how del Carmen describes what she earns. After every 12-day cruise she gets two days off. "It's fun working here," she says as she looks up from her desk in the spa's lavender-scented receiving area.

Nights are busy for the musicians who play in different venues aboard the ship. John Neri, 24, regales the night owls with violin music. As a child he studied music under a scholarship program for the musically gifted.

Neri met his wife in another cruise ship. Married for four years now, the couple is building a house in Kalookan City.

'Oye como va'

Although now US-based, Vicky Gallarde of Vicky and The Holding Company band still calls the Philippines home. It's a rollicking night when the band plays for a crowd with itchy feet.

Vicky switches without a lurch from lusty "Amor, amor, amor" to a staccato "Oye como va" while husband Chris and the rest segue from rumba to disco beat. The band is a ship mainstay.

The couple has a room for two of their own at the crew quarters. The standard rooms for two for the crew have TVs and computers with e-mail capabilities. The Filipinos also have a daily two-page news digest called "Philippines Today." There is a bar as well as games and exercise facilities.

Edgardo Villarinio, 42, studied music in the University of the Philippines and sang with the UP Concert Chorus. He is married with three kids. The *Inquirer* chanced upon Villarinio playing soothing classic guitar music by the poolside.

He was in the Caribbean several months earlier and he remembers the day a hurricane blew around there. There are less "sea days" in the Mediterranean, he says, meaning, the ship docks often in tourist havens.

Selling the Philippines

On his fifth contract now, Villarinio says their own families could enjoy cruise privileges when there is space available. And could the entertainers have some fun during the day? "If there are less than five guests using the pool, we could take a dip," Villarinio says.

He dreams of cruises on Philippine waters that could rival those elsewhere. "We try to advertise the Philippines. Subic is so beautiful." He talks of an island in Haiti that Royal Caribbean had developed.

Great workers

Bill Brunkhorst, American cruise director who makes sure entertainment is at its peak, has only good words for the Filipinos. "They

are so talented and they learn very quickly," he says. "They're great workers."



VIOLINIST John Neri and photographer Hoffman Roscano

are so talented and they learn very quickly," he says. "They're great workers."

The Greek ship captain Michael Lachtaridis, a seasoned sea voyager who has been sailing the seas for 33 years says he has been working with Filipinos since the 1980s. "They get along well with other nationalities," he says. "They are very educated and they are a happy lot."

Whether it is instructing on wine tasting, giving beauty massages, serving at formal dinners, making omelets at the buffet breakfast, playing music, snapping photos amidst the Greek ruins, ensuring security and swiping cards at entry and exit points, disposing garbage or keeping staterooms clean, Filipino seamen and women are doing their best. And why not a Filipino guest chaplain or morgue attendant?

The least seen

The least seen but perhaps the most important because they make the ship sail the distances are those who work in the belly of the ship or the engine room. The lives of those on board are practically in the hands of these experts in ship engineering.

The *Inquirer* descended to the grime-free hard hat area and met some of the Filipinos there. Jessie Hervilla, Estefano Joel, Steve Flores, Ramon Cerio, Percival Dilag and so many more. Chief Junior Engineer Rasmus Norling of Sweden has only high praises for the men who are seldom seen on deck.

But life for the OFWs on board these cruise ships is surely not problem-free, as life anywhere is not. Are the OFWs on these so-called floating four-star, five-star hotels better off than their counterparts in cargo ships and oil tankers? What lies beyond those glittering nights and sunny days at sea? What awaits them in their homeland? What awaits Edward Pampus, Joselito Benito, Cipertino Apil, Arlene Salon, Susan Gatmaitan, Arthur Pernia, Julius Mijares, Juanito Embolero, Edwin Miranda, Eunice Sabido, Victor Amuyang, Ronaldo Carreon, Erita Villanueva, George Tardo, Joselito Benito.

Don't they feel resentful when they see food and drink flowing endlessly, people having so much fun and spending so much money for this kind of voyage, while they work so hard to keep these people thrilled and while the pine for home?

"Oh no," says a food server without a tinge of resentment. "Many of them have worked hard too. And because of them we have our jobs. Someday we too could enjoy something like this."

This *Inquirer* reporter was a regular paying guest on this cruise. The ship sailed from Barcelona and back and stopped in several key places on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

OFWs turn Batangas town into La Dolce Vita

From page A16

ings also find work and settle in Italy.

In less than a year after Dolor paved the way so to speak, more village women were already leaving for Italy in groups of 10 to 15, mostly with the help of a certain "Aling Letty," a recruiter based in Pasay City, Magsino said.

Lifestyle change

The *Inquirer* met Magsino on Friday in his house, one of the remaining few in Anahao who has not sent any family member abroad for work. Considered among the pioneer residents, the retired cop offered his own assessment of what his village has gained—and lost—with its dependence on OFWs.

"Mine used to be among the biggest houses here," he smiled, referring to his bungalow. "Now this is among the smallest."

"See those small kids?" he said, pointing to the street outside.

"Their parents aren't here but abroad, usually leaving the care of their children to the grandparents or maids."

"And those big houses you see now? Most of them are occupied just by a trusted relative or a maid, not by the OFW who had them built," he added. "I myself have a cousin (in Italy) who has asked me to look after his newly renovated house—and all I needed to do is turn the lights on and off."

"You won't find any of them now. They are all back abroad," he said, when the *Inquirer* asked whether he can help arrange interviews with any OFW who happened to be in the village on vacation.

Silent middle class

For here, as in any similar community around the country, the balikbayan or "homecoming" period for the breadwinners is during Christmas or graduation season, he explained.

Seeing many of those freshly

painted "dream homes" empty seems to give a literal meaning to the oft-heard political catchphrase: The Silent Middle Class.

And there are other things rather awkward about the unprecedented progress attained by Anahao.

While most households now can obviously afford utilities like telephone lines, Internet connection, or something as basic as a steady, metered water supply, the village still has no access to these services that the government is supposed to provide or facilitate. Water is still piped to homes from a mountain spring. Residents can only call through cell phones.

The main road is already paved but remains a one-lane affair as in the old days, a pity considering the residents' vastly increased purchasing power that has allowed them to buy brand new vans and SUVs.

But if there's one thing that particularly pleased Magsino, it was the relief done to the local natural

environment after his community eventually gave up farming and just looked forward to the next remittance.

"Our nearby mountains (Mt. Marik and Kabaok) were already denuded then because of *kasingin*. But now the trees are back," he said.

Excess money

After improving their old homes, many OFWs have since made heavy "investments" elsewhere, mostly in real estate. Magsino said they usually bought lots or homes in prime subdivisions around Batangas or farmlands in Mindoro.

But still, their most precious investment seems to be in their children's future. This is indicated, ironically, by the "falling enrollment" in the barangay's public school, the village chair said.

Since OFW-dependent families can now afford expensive private schools, "only around 90 pupils" were left studying this year at the



EMPTY NEST. The breadwinners are all in Milan. Elders or maids are left to mind the new houses in Barangay Pulong Anahao, a common sight in this village of 800 that has sent some 250 OFWs to Italy. RUFFY UEBMA

government-run Pulong Anahao Elementary School, he said.

The private school pupils are even shuttled in their family vehicles to campuses at the Mabini town proper or as far as Batangas City, he noted.

But perhaps for a deeper feel of how Anahao's Italian renaissance has changed the people's life and mindset, one just need to overhear

the usual "hantahan" or street-corner banter—especially when the chat strays into politics and current events.

"Since people here don't want the peso to strengthen any further against the dollar (or Euro), you could hear some of them actually wishing there would be more protest rallies in Metro Manila," Magsino shares with a laugh.

B

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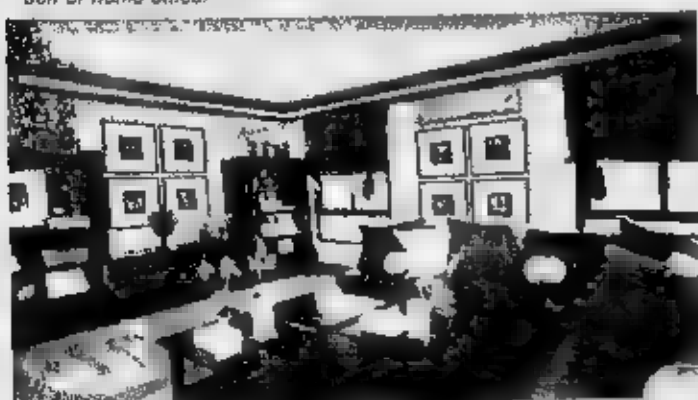


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Brittany Corporation

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Hostaged Christian activist killed in Iraq



AMERICAN Tom Fox in image aired by Al Jazeera TV Jan. 28.

WASHINGTON—AN AMERICAN WHO WAS among four Christian activists kidnapped last year in Iraq has been killed, a state department spokesperson said.

The FBI verified that a body found in Iraq Friday morning was that of Tom Fox, 54, spokesperson Noel Clay said. He said he had no information on the other three hostages.

Clay said he did not know how Fox was killed but said additional forensics will be done in the United States. The US Embassy in Baghdad is investigating, he said.

Fox's family has been notified, Clay said, and "our heartfelt condolences go out to them."

"The state department continues to call for the unconditional release of all other hostages" in Iraq, the spokesperson said.

Fox's organization, Christian Peacemaker Teams, said Friday, "We mourn the loss of Tom Fox, who combined a lightness of spirit, a firm opposition to all oppression, and the recognition of God in everyone."

Christian Peacemaker codirectors Doug Pritchard and Carol Rose said in a statement, "In response to Tom's passing, we ask that everyone

set aside inclinations to vilify or demonize others, no matter what they have done."

"This guy was not after martyrdom by any means," said Paul Slater, a member of the McLean, Virginia-based Langley Hill Friends Meeting that Fox, a Quaker, also attended. "He actually believed in his heart that he would better them by his conviction and his beliefs and his skills, and I think largely succeeded."

"What he leaves behind is a tremendous challenge for the rest of us and a guiding force."

Fox was the one American among four Christian Peacemaker activists kidnapped last year in Iraq.

On Tuesday, Al-Jazeera television aired footage of the three other ac-

tivists purportedly appealing to their governments to secure their release.

The hostages seen in the brief video dated Feb. 28 were Canadians James Loney, 41, and Harneet Singh Sooden, 32; and Briton Norman Kember, 74.

Allan Slater, a Canadian member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, said at the time that he was disturbed not to see Fox.

"We certainly are hopeful when we see three of our friends alive, but also it's very distressing that we didn't see Tom Fox, and I wouldn't want to hide that because I'm sure it's very distressful for Tom's family and friends as well," Slater told The Canadian Press from Baghdad. AP

Fallout feared after port deal's collapse

WASHINGTON—BUSH'S decision to approve a \$6.8-billion deal to transfer the ownership of the Port of Dubai to a US company has triggered a chain of events that could lead to a free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai, reaching what both sides called a "mutual decision" with the Office of the US Trade Representative to postpone talks on a free trade agreement that had been scheduled to resume next week.

Emirates officials said the decision to delay the free trade talks was unrelated to the port controversy. Bush and his top aides praised the decision of the Dubai company, DP World, to back away from the acquisition, and insisted that it did not signal broad opposition on the part of the United States to investment from Middle East allies.

But even Bush could not completely dismiss concerns that there could be repercussions in the United Arab Emirates and other Middle East countries over widespread suspicion that anti-Arab bias lay at the center of the congressional opposition to the deal.

The deal unraveled abruptly on Thursday when DP World said that, at the direction of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, it had decided to transfer the leases to manage some of the busiest terminals in the United States to an American company. DP World had acquired the leases as part of its purchase of Peninsula & Oriental Steam Navigation, a British company, for \$6.8 billion. *New York Times News Service*

'Top Gun' jets conclude final deployment

By Sanja Barisic

VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA—The US Navy's last F-14 fighter jets, made famous by a grinning Tom Cruise in the movie "Top Gun," arrived home Friday, ending the final combat deployment of the sleek, Cold War-era plane.

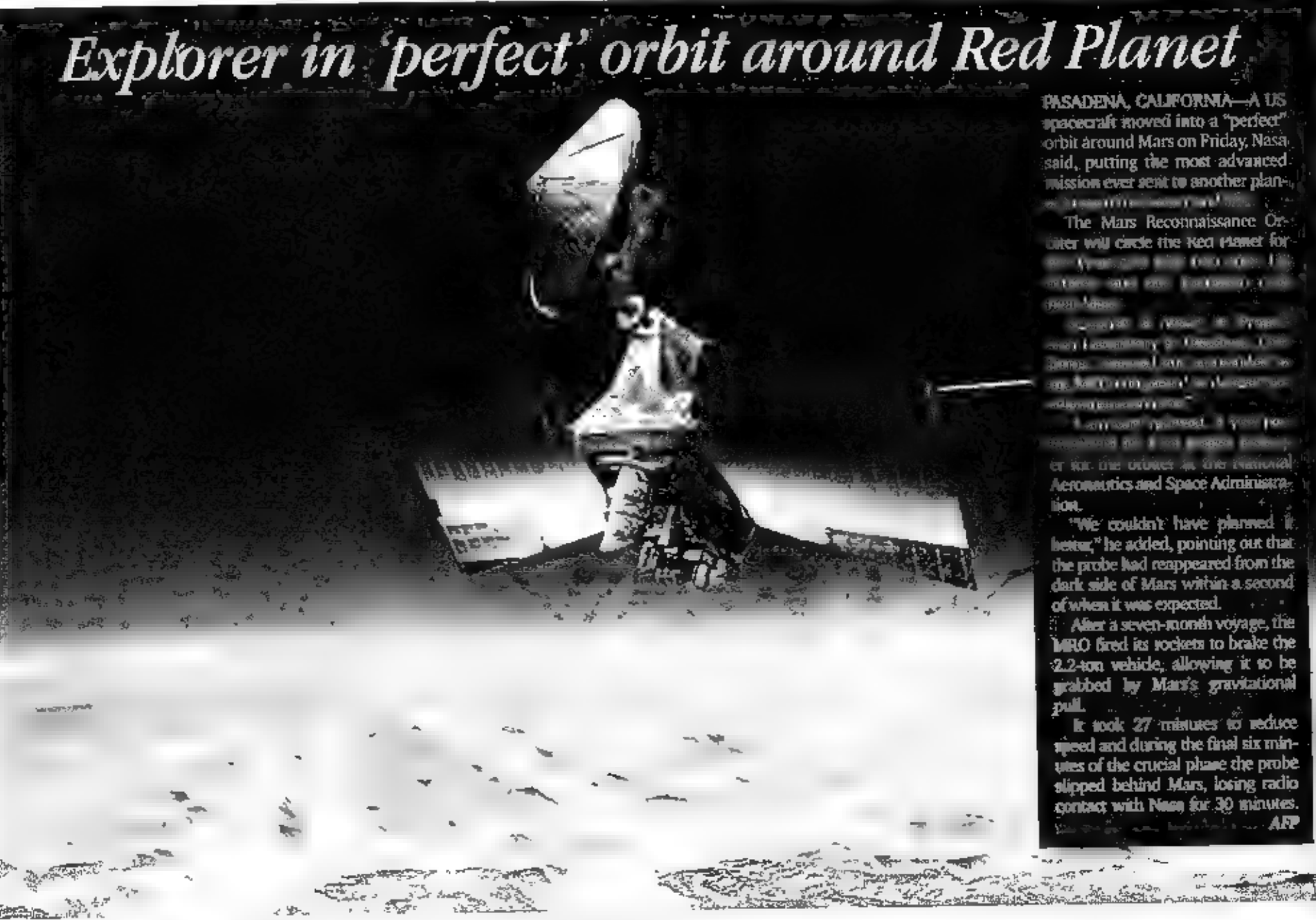
All 22 Tomcats of Fighter Squadron VF-213 and VF-214 are being retired after a last deployment in Iraq.

They flew together in a giant wedge formation over Oceana Naval Air Station as hundreds of family, friends and sailors cheered. Some wore T-shirts reading "Tomcats Forever" and a banner proclaimed, "Last Fly-In, Baby!"

"Any homecoming is a big deal when you've been away from your family for so long, but this is the last Tomcat cruise," said Lt. Jon Jeck, 42, as he held his 3-year-old son Collin.

"We're putting the premier fighter to sleep. It's a staple of American."

The F-14 squadrons, which are part of Carrier Air Wing Eight, flew 10,000 sorties during the deployment, but suffered no losses despite logging more than 30,000 flight



ARTIST'S concept showing the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter over the Martian landscape.

Immigrants march in Chicago

CHICAGO—TENS OF THOUSANDS of Mexican and other immigrants held a massive rally in Chicago on Friday to protest proposed changes to US immigration laws.

Waving flags and carrying signs reading "We're people, not criminals" and "Working hands do not deserve handcuffs," they streamed on foot in-

to the downtown area, overwhelming a square at the federal court house where the rally was held.

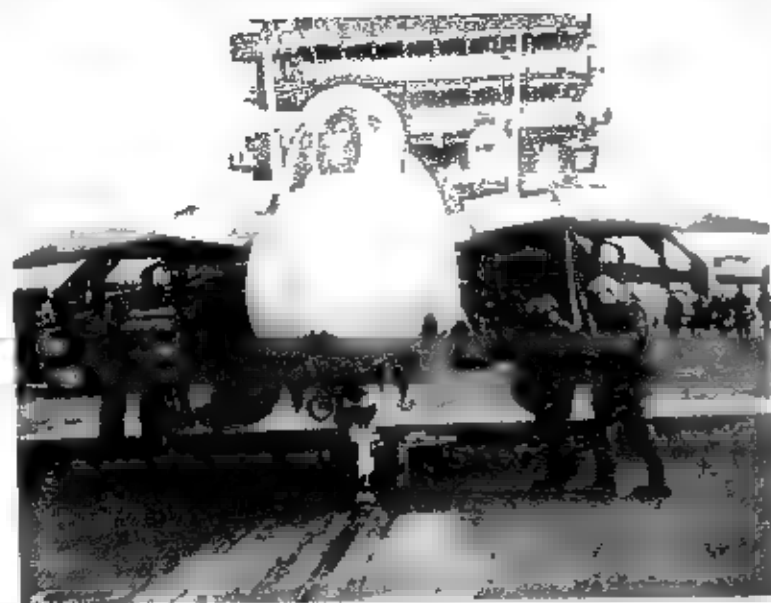
Chicago police said from 75,000 to 100,000 people were involved in the march and rally.

The target of the protest was legislation sponsored by Rep.

James Sensenbrenner, a Republican from Wisconsin, which passed

the US House of Representatives last year and is being considered in the US Senate along with competing proposals.

His bill would make it illegal to assist an undocumented immigrant, something that priests, ministers and other social workers have said would turn those who routinely help immigrants into criminals. *Reuters*



AN F-14D Tomcat taxis into launch position on the flight deck aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt.

hours, including 3,000 hours delivering 52 bombs and air-to-ground missiles in support of coalition troops in Iraq.

They had been aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, which was to return Saturday to nearby Norfolk Naval Station after a six-month deployment.

The "Black Lions" of VF-213 will begin the transition to the F/A-18F

Super Hornet right away. The "Tomcats" of VF-214 will continue flying F-14s until September, then begin switching to the Super Hornet in October.

"If you want to think about airplanes that have defined the air age, this would have to be on the short list," military analyst John Pike said of the F-14, the two-seat fighter with signature retractable wings glamor-

ized in the 1986 Tom Cruise movie "Top Gun."

The F-14 entered service in the early 1970s and was intended to defend US aircraft carriers from Soviet bombers carrying long-range cruise missiles, said Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, an Alexandria research center on security issues.

"The general view is that an aircraft carrier would be hard to sink."

But "today you're much less worried about maritime patrol aircraft coming after you and a lot more worried about dropping bombs on the bad guys," Pike said.

After the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Navy "made some effort to turn the thing into a Bombercat, but it was not designed as a bomb hauler," Pike said. "They would rather have a new plane than try to teach an old cat new tricks."

The USS Theodore Roosevelt will return Saturday to the Norfolk Naval Station after a six-month deployment.

More than 7,500 sailors are on the ships of the Roosevelt strike group. AP

Spain remembers dead in Europe's own 9/11

MADRID—SPANISH PRIME Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and main opposition leader Mariano Rajoy were to pay a midday homage on Saturday to the victims of the March 11, 2004 Madrid train bombings.

Islamic extremists sympathetic to al-Qaida claimed responsibility for planting the 10 bombs on four trains in an apparent revenge attack for Spanish participation in the US-led invasion of Iraq.

The blasts killed 191 people and injured some 1,900 others in the country's worst ever terrorist attack.

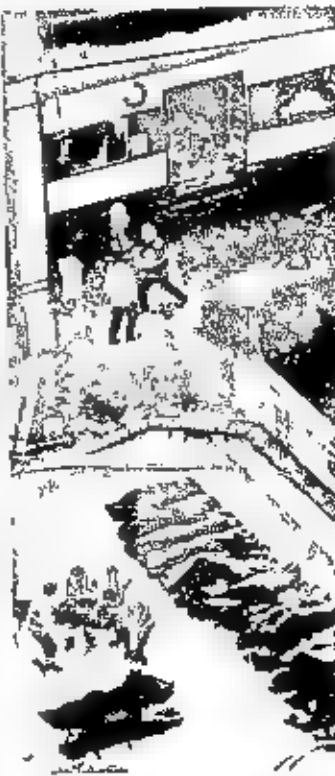
Two children, one of Algerian origin, from San Ildefonso school will lay a wreath and flowers will also be laid at Atocha station, where the "trains of death" were headed.

The prime minister will pay his respects at the Forest of the Absent, which Spain's king and queen inaugurated last year in the capital's Retiro park. The memorial includes 192 cypress and olive trees—one for each of the victims and a police officer killed two weeks after the blasts when seven key suspects blew themselves up.

Joining the national commemorations will be a group of community leaders and dignitaries from the Moroccan town of Nador, who set off on March 5 for Madrid.

Also attending will be Moroccan ambassador to Spain Omar Azzaman.

Most of the suspects are Moroccan nationals and charges are soon due to be brought for a trial



BODIES lined up in Spain's worst terrorist attack.

set to last a year. Spanish victims' associations will be keeping a low profile amid their own private grief, as they did 12 months ago.

With Saturday marking the EU's second European day for terror victims, the Association for the Victims of Terrorism will nonetheless read out texts to the victims of terrorism in general Spain's Federation of Muslim Groups (Feen) on Friday condemned terrorism and offered support for the families of the bomb victims. AP

Double whammy for Italy's Berlusconi

ROME—ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER SILVIO Berlusconi was hit Friday by corruption charges and the resignation of a cabinet minister in an unrelated political scandal, a double whammy less than a month before the country votes in a general election.

The two developments come as Berlusconi's centre-right coalition is battling a difficult campaign for the April 9 and 10 vote, trailing the centre-left coalition led by Romano Prodi in the polls.

The prosecutor's office in Milan has requested that Berlusconi and David Mills, whose wife Tessa Jowell is a minister in the cabinet of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, face trial over allegations of bribery in exchange for false testimony, media reports said.

Under Italian law a judge will have to decide whether to send the case to court for trial, a process that could take months.

The charge centres on an alleged bribe of \$600,000 paid to Mills in 1997 by a company run by Berlusconi's family in return for favourable testimony for the tycoon at corruption trials that year and again in 1998.

"Once again, and just before the elections, certain lawyers are voluntarily giving up the search for truth to pursue political goals," said Sandro Bondi, national coordinator for Berlusconi's Forza Italia.

Both Berlusconi and Mills deny the allega-

The funds, which Mills says came from a shipowner, were used to pay off a mortgage on a house that Mills and Jowell shared in north London after passing through a number of bank accounts.

Jowell and Mills announced their separation last weekend. Blair has said he stands by her, and a parliamentary commission has cleared her of wrongdoing.

The latest charges stem from an investigation against Berlusconi, which is still running, accusing him of fraud over the purchase of film rights for his media group Mediaset.

Prosecutors suspect the price of those rights was artificially inflated by intermediary companies in order to set up off-shore shell funds.

Mills has been tied to the creation of off-shore companies and tax-haven bank accounts for Fininvest, Berlusconi's holding group, which allegedly paid the bribe for favourable testimony.

Later Friday, Berlusconi suffered another blow when Health Minister Francesco Storace resigned after he was suspected of spying on his political opponents, a ministry spokesperson said.

"The mere suspicion that I could engineer political manoeuvres against political adversaries makes me sick and indignant," Storace said in a statement.

AFP

BERLUSCONI: In trouble again.

Thaksin offers talks as foes plan new rally

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Thaksin Shinawatra Saturday offered to meet with his opponents in a bid to break the political deadlock threatening the April 2 election.

Thaksin repeated the offer in a series of television interviews, just two days before rivals seeking to oust him plan another overnight rally and a march on his office during his Tuesday cabinet meeting.

"We are trying to convince them to talk. I want to meet them but they play quite hard ball," Thaksin told CNN in an interview.

Thaksin reiterated that he would not bow to protesters' demands for his resignation.

"Why should I resign? If I resigned, I would be betraying the people who support me. After April 2, everything will be clear. I am ready to quit, but only through a democratic process," he told Thailand's Channel 9 television.

"So PAD can name its representative, the three opposition parties can send one representative. I want to reassure you that I haven't done anything wrong," he said.



THAKSIN

REUTERS

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), a loose coalition of anti-Thaksin groups, got a major boost Friday when Thailand's most powerful unions threw their support behind its campaign and urged their 300,000 members to join the protest.

That added to pressure on Thaksin, who also faces an election boycott by the three leading opposition parties, threatening to deepen the political crisis.

Both PAD and the opposition parties were meeting Saturday to consider the offer.

AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

22nd bird flu death confirmed

JAKARTA—Indonesia on Friday said two more children were confirmed to have died from bird flu, taking the country's death toll from the virus to 22. Health ministry spokesperson Sumardi said the latest victim was a 12-year-old girl who died March 1. Earlier Friday, the ministry said that a three-year-old who died last month had been killed by the H5N1 bird flu strain. "Now we have 22 deaths out of 30 confirmed victims," the spokesperson said.

AFP

Diplomats caught smuggling whiskey

BRASILIA, Brazil—Brazilian police on Friday dismantled a network of foreign diplomats, including some from Iraq and African countries, who had used their privileges to sell whiskey, perfume and other luxury goods to high society in the capital Brasilia. The gang involved 20 diplomats at the embassies of Iraq, Syria, Angola, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, federal police said. "The criminal scheme included embassy officials with diplomatic status," the police said in a statement. Over the past three years the group sold more than three million reais (\$1.4 million) worth of contraband whiskey, perfume and other imported tax-free luxury goods. Using their rights to diplomatic tax exemptions, they made profits of up to 300 percent. The foreign officials could not be arrested due to their diplomatic immunity, the police said.

Reuters



Ex-Bush aide accused of thefts

WASHINGTON—Claude Allen, President George W. Bush's former top domestic policy adviser, was arrested this week in Maryland for allegedly swindling two stores out of more than \$5,000, the Washington Post reported on Saturday, quoting Montgomery County police. Allen, 45, of the Washington suburb of Gaithersburg, Maryland, was released on his own recognizance and awaits trial on two charges, felony theft scheme and theft over \$500, according to Lt. Eric Burnett, a police spokesperson, the paper said. Allen is accused of swindling Target and The Hecht Co. out of more than \$5,000 in a refund scheme, the Post reported. Allen, a former deputy secretary in the Department of Health and Human Services, was appointed the president's top domestic policy adviser last year at the start of Bush's second term. He resigned last month.

Reuters

US interior secretary resigns

WASHINGTON—Gale A. Norton announced Friday that she was resigning as interior secretary, saying that she had accomplished much of what she had intended to do, and hinting at fatigue. "I'm a Westerner at heart and I am looking forward to getting back to the West," Norton, whose resignation is effective at the end of the month, said. Norton had been on the job for five years. She was at the nexus of many controversies, including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other sensitive areas, administration of the Endangered Species Act, handling of trust money for Indian tribes, and collection of royalties due the federal government for natural gas drilling on public lands. During her tenure, snowmobiles returned to Yellowstone, and extensive areas were opened up for drilling and mining, although the Arctic refuge was not. She also presided over the department as it became enmeshed in a corruption scandal involving the lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

NYT News Service

The sun is going away, but don't panic

ABUJA—The Nigerian government, anxious to avoid a repeat of riots that marked a solar eclipse in 2001, warned citizens they may suffer "psychological discomfort" during a new eclipse this month but urged them not to panic. Information Minister Frank Nwaka said an eclipse five years ago caused riots in northern Borno state because people did not know why it happened. "Some people even felt some evil people in their communities were responsible for the eclipse," he said in a statement on Thursday aimed at reassuring Nigerians that the eclipse is expected to darken parts of the country on March 29. "The eclipse is not expected to have any real damaging effect, only social and psychological discomforts are envisaged," Nwaka said.

Reuters



STUDENTS build barricades with chairs and tables inside the famous Sorbonne university, March 10 in Paris central Latin Quarter, as they protest against the first employment contract which allows an employer to lay off the employee during the first two years of employment.

Sorbonne students, French riot police clash

PARIS—FRENCH RIOT POLICE STORMED Paris' famous Sorbonne university early Saturday, where hundreds of students were holed-up, a police source said, following sometimes violent protests against a new labor law.

Eleven officers were injured during the operation, according to the local prefecture, and there were several arrests. Another 20 police officers were injured in scuffles and clashes on Friday.

One student and a photographer were also injured.

Protest action also occurred at many other universities throughout the country on Friday.

The police action in Paris, which began just before 4 a.m. ended within 10 minutes with the evacuation of some 400 student activists.

Police said there was no one left in the building after three nights of occupation.

Police used teargas and batons to push the students to the exit, an AFP correspondent said.

Shouts of "they're here," and "they arrived, barricade the doors," could be heard from in-

side as the riot police began to move on the university building.

Dozens of students, men and women in their early 20s from various Paris universities, improvised barricades and hurled objects at the approaching helmeted officers.

At around 4:15 a.m. emergency services arrived to offer first aid to one person lying on the pavement after the police action.

The students had attempted to confront the anti-riot police, forming a human chain and chanting "peaceful resistance."

AFP

Number of China convicts up as courts battle judge shortage

BEIJING—THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CHINA convicted last year grew as fast as the national economy, but a shortage of judges means the courts are clogging up, the Chinese chief justice told parliament on Saturday.

The president of the Supreme People's Court, Xiao Yang, told the National People's Congress that in 2005 courts had sentenced 844,717 citizens, a rise of 10 percent over 2004.

China's economy grew 9.9 percent in 2005.

He said 131,869 people were sentenced to jail terms of 5 years or longer, including death penalties—a fall of about 14,000 on last year. Xiao did not specify how many were executed.

China does not release numbers of how many citizens it executes each year. Human

rights group Amnesty International estimated that in 2004 the courts issued death sentences to at least 6,000 citizens, and probably many more.

Xiao said courts in the wealthy coastal regions and big cities were overwhelmed with cases, while those in the poorer west had been losing young judges to more lucrative work.

Chinese citizens are increasingly turning to courts for redress, and Xiao reported that citizens continued to "complain quite fiercely" about judges' failure to enforce judgements.

"Coordinating and balancing public powers against the rights of citizens, corporations and other organizations are becoming issues of widespread social concern," Xiao said.

Reuters



TWO Chinese cycle in heavy snow on a street in Beijing March 11.

REUTERS

Chile swears in one-time exile as first female president

SANTIAGO, CHILE—MICHELLE Bachelet, who as a young socialist medical student was jailed, tortured and exiled by her country's armed forces, was preparing on Saturday to become Chile's commander in chief and first woman president.

On the eve of her inauguration,

Bachelet called Chile's acceptance of a female president "a historic, unprecedented fact."

The 54-year-old former health and defense minister has said that she will decisively increase the participation of women in government and politics.

She already appointed a cabinet with an equal number of men and women, and has vowed to do the same in some 300 decision-making positions in the government. She promises also to promote legislation that would force political parties to include a certain percentage

of female candidates.

On Friday, Bachelet greeted foreign leaders flocking to her inauguration to watch what is widely seen as a major cultural and political change in a traditionally male-dominated, conservative society.

The visitors include several

women—Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand, Vice President Fatemeh Javadi of Iran and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were scheduled to attend the inauguration Saturday at the congressional building in the port city of Valparaiso, 120 km northwest of

Santiago.

After meeting with leftist Bolivian President Evo Morales, Bachelet said that "it is a historic unprecedented fact that a woman will be Chile's president, and it's also a historic fact that an Aymara (Indian) is president of Bolivia."

AP

Exciting welcome prizes await SM Sta. Rosa shoppers

Bigger savings and more choices are guaranteed to delight Laguna shoppers at the newly-opened branches of SM Department Store and SM Supermarket in Sta. Rosa

The newly-inaugurated branches of SM Department Store and SM Supermarket in Sta. Rosa are holding a joint raffle event as the centerpiece of their welcome offerings to shoppers in Laguna and neighboring communities.

Weekly Winners

A total of 20 Nokia N70 cellphones will be given away as prizes to the lucky shoppers (5 cellphones / 5 winners weekly). Every P500 single receipt purchase at **SM Department Store** or **SM Supermarket** gives shoppers a chance to join the raffle which ends on March 16.



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1st week - Feb. 24
2nd week - Mar. 3
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Sunday SPORTS

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GINEBRA's Eric Menk tries to foil an attempt by TNT's Asi Taulava.

Kings tackle Realtors; Air21-TNT duel today

BARANGAY GINEBRA SHOOT'S FOR A SECOND STRAIGHT victory against Sta. Lucia Realty tonight in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

An impressive winner over the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in their debut, the Gin Kings are heavy favorites in the 6:30 p.m. match against the Realtors, who got going on the wrong foot also last week.

The Phone Pals and the Air21 Express try to break into the win column when they collide earlier at 4:10 p.m.

"We will run at the Baywalk area without clothes if we fail to win the championship," said the outspoken Marc Caguioa of Ginebra in a league primer aired by ABC Sports recently.

True to his words, Caguioa set the early scoring

record with 39 points against the Phone Pals, sending a clear signal that the crowd favorites are out to settle for nothing less than the championship.

Still, the Gin Kings are not taking any chances against the Realtors, who are coming off a lopsided 88-104 defeat at the hands of the Purefoods Chunkee Giants.

"We cannot risk being complacent against Sta. Lucia," said Barangay Ginebra coach Sot Tanungcen.

"For sure, they (Realtors) will bounce back." Jayjay Helterbrand and Caguioa are fast recovering from injuries as shown by their double-barreled onslaught against

the Phone Pals

After swapping players after the last conference, it would be interesting to see how Mark Telan, John Ferriols, Vergel Meneses and Patrick Fran fare against their former teams.

Telan exchanged places with Ferriols, who now acts as one of Asi Taulava's backups, while Meneses jumped over to the Phone Pals following his release from Red Bull.

Meneses also played for the Express under now Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren.

Before Air21 coach Bo Perasol took over, Pumaren and Talk 'N Text assistant coach Bong Ramos had taken turns calling the shots for the Express in the past.

The Express fell prey to the Coca-Cola Tigers in their debut and also missed spitfire Ronald Tubid and Gary David. Tubid sprained his ankle while David is resting a sore elbow.

June Navarro

Controversial Compton-Eman trade fizzles out

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE WAS, APPARENTLY, much ado about nothing.

The Samigue Eman-Alex Compton trade that sent coach Robert Sison packing from the Montaña camp has fizzled out, according to team officials yesterday.

Rain or Shine did not release Eman, the 6-foot-9 rookie the Montaña management wanted to acquire in exchange for the veteran Compton, who now stays with the Jewels along with mainstays Al Magpayo, Froilan Baguion, Al Vergara and Eric dela Cuesta.

"There was no trade, the team has a 12-man lineup," said Montaña's interim coach Nel Parado, who took over after Sison surprisingly stepped down as head coach last Monday.

The proposed swap caused a rift between Montaña officials and Sison, who questioned the management's decision to trade Compton just weeks before the



COMPTON: No go.

start of the Philippine Basketball League's Unity Cup.

Montaña later clarified that management had suspended Sison even before he decided to quit. The reason for the suspension was not revealed, however.

Sources said Sison already had a "strained relationship" with the management after he steered the Jewels to their first title in 2005.

Eman, a prized young center from Davao, played for the University of Mindanao and the disbanded RP-Cebuana Lhuillier Team.

Although Rain or Shine turned down the chance to include Compton on its amateur roster, the team definitely wants him on board when it joins the Philippine Basketball Association in October.

Welcoat Paints, the name the franchise will carry in the PBA, had requested permission two weeks ago to allow the American cager to be part of its pro lineup.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Paeng, Bong to play with special bowlers /A26

■ Vasquez stuns Paragua /A26

■ Bata aims for Japan 9-ball repeat /A27



REYES

Only potential gold medalists for Asiad

THE PHILIPPINES WILL SEND only athletes with legitimate shots at landing medals in the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar this December.

This was the only criteria the Philippine Asian Games task force announced yesterday since other details of the selection of athletes have yet to be approved by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"We cannot reveal what we have discussed because we will still have to give it to the POC for approval," said Richie Garcia, co-chair of the task force. "We don't want to preempt the POC, we're just here to lay down the criteria."

Garcia, who shares chair re-

sponsibilities with athletics chief Go Teng Kok, will meet with POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco at the former Tarlac Congressman's Dasmariñas residence tomorrow to finalize details of the selection of the athletes.

A separate meeting of the expanded POC executive board will tackle the criteria during its March 15 meeting at the Milky Way restaurant.

Earlier reports said the Asiad delegation could be composed of no more than 200 athletes and that even the gold medal winners, and even record breakers, of last year's Southeast Asian Games are not assured of slots.

Musong R. Castillo

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BAYAN/TEL

A good gamer plays responsibly.

Fernando, Sales share Commanders Cup honors

ANTHONY FERNANDO AND GARY SALES shared top honors with superb rounds in the recent UP Vanguard National Commanders Cup golf tournament at the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club in Laguna.

Fernando, who came from a golfing family, conquered the hazy-laden layout with a seven-under-par 65 for the low gross plum while Eagle Ridge-based Sales took the overall crown with a net 11-under 61 score.

Bert Saludes matched the 61 of Sales but had to settle for the Open category plum in the 18-hole tourney staged as a fundraiser to boost the campaign for a renewed interest on the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

Royal Capital Securities Corp. was the main backer of the event organized by The UP Vanguard Inc., the alumni organization of the UP ROTC Corps of Officers.

Hole-in-one sponsors were Turf Company/Club Car, Euro Motors Corp., Josol Home Décor Industrial Improvement Center and CICI General Insurance Corp.

Hole sponsors include Ace Hardware and Southeast Asia Foods Inc. while half hole sponsors are No Fear, Camp John Hay Dev't Corp., Alexander's Wear, Levi's Strauss Phil. Inc., VGD Lino Magpantay, VGD Winston Tony Santos, Rep. Francis Nepomuceno, Antonio Evangelista of New Karlaon Construction, lawyer Eladio Pasamba and Air21/Corporate Air.

The Class A award went to John Sicat, Class B was won by Felix Cortez and Francis Gudani took the Class C crown.

Former Vanguards Bimbo

Real Spicy Commish Cup top bet

By Musong R. Castillo

PREPARED HARDER THAN HE has ever been, Real Spicy starts his 2006 stakes campaign today as the odds-on choice in the compact field of the P1 million Philra-com Commissioner's Cup.

The winner of the third leg of last year's Triple Crown series, Real Spicy, flashing fearsome form in workouts, will surely be sent off as the outstanding favorite in the 1,800-meter race at the Santa Ana Park.

The race will also mark the first time that the handsome progeny of US Triple Crown winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale will run as a four-year-old.

His last run as a three-year-old was close to a month ago and he was awesome, to say the least, clocking a dizzying 1:29 over 1,450 which now stands as the new track mark at the Santa Ana.

"We expect him to win (today)," said sportsman Hermie Esguerra, the Owner of the Year last season. "We have been preparing him hard, hoping he'd also do well in the other big races scheduled for the year."

Jesse B. Guce pilots Real Spicy, who faces seasoned Chariot of Fire, Cool Runnings and stablemate Moab.

First place will be worth P600,000, with the second placer bringing home P225,000.

Ronald Baldonado rides Chariot of Fire, a five-year-old bay mare by Conquistador out of Chase the Wind, while Val Dilema partners the Treasure Cay-Discreetly offspring Cool Runnings. Patty Dilema will be Moab's partner.

Real Spicy is trying to run in all the big races leading to the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup scheduled May 14 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Paeng, Bong playing with special bowlers

BOWLING HALL OF FAMERS Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo head the cast of true-blue athletes who have committed to play with 16 special bowlers in the Special Athlete Celebrity Bowl on March 18 at the Powerbowl at the Rockwell Center in Makati City.

Southeast Asian Games standouts Markwin Tee, Liza Clutario, Ces Yap, Biboy Rivera, Liza del Rosario, Chester King and Jojo Canare have also committed to play with Dublin World Special Olympic Games gold medalists Roxanne Ng, Alfred Abueg, Mark Inductivo, Jonathan Zulueta and veteran internationalists Anton Silos, Robin Clarino, Stephanie Babst, Larry Cruz and Sara Ungson.

IGAN Foundation of GMA anchorman Clavio head the list of

major sponsors for the event with Pagcor, Shell Better Mileage Gasoline, Globe Telecom-Sa Globe Possible, ACCEL Sports and Powerbowl.

Also supporting the event are Rep. Dodo Ra. Cagas, (1st Dist. Davao del Sur), Creative Response, Go Nuts Donuts, Unilever and friends of Spaba.

Representatives of the major sponsors will also participate.

Celebrities confirming their participation in the tournament are Jolina Magdangal, Regine Tolentino, Lyn Chung, Anthony Suntay, Macky Fernando and Arnold Clavio.

The Special Athletes Bowling Association (Spaba) headed by lawyer Gani Zulueta, Irene Silos Soledad Ng, Damaso Cruz Jr. and Cristy Gacuma host the fund-raising event.



GLENN Aguilar leads the charge of the Revtex Motocross Team, which snared three victories in the 2006 Supercross in Iloilo City.

Revtex riders dominate

BRAND NEW BIKE, SAME WINNING RESULT.

Glenn Aguilar, brandishing a powerful 2006 KTM250F motorbike, completed a sweep of both the Pro Open and Pro 125 categories, as he led the charge of the mighty Revtex team in the 2006 Supercross International Championship Series at the Sta. Barbara Stadium in Iloilo City.

Mounting his racing machine for the first time in an actual competition, the Revtex Rocket ruled both the first and second motos of the premier Pro Open, fending off the challenge of overall second placer and Jovy Saulog and Bebet dela Cruz, with New Zealand's James Robinson nowhere near the leaders.

Showing that athleticism runs in the family, Aguilar's son McLean, a La Salle Zobel student, provided Revtex's other victory as he topped the 7-under Pee wee Class.

Joining the winning fray for Revtex was Nino Garcia, who crushed the opposition in the Beginners' Production category.

"In the Pro Open, my rivals used their powerful 450cc bikes, but I gambled with my new KTM250 and it paid off," said Aguilar. "With my racing machine getting into the groove with my trusted Revtex oil, I was able to unleash those wonderful rides."

Aguilar, who recently was adjudged as the Golden Wheels' International Driver of the Year, was at his best in the second heat of the Pro Open, where he was able to score away from his pursuers, led by Saulog, by as much as half a lap.

Vasquez stuns Paraguay in Candon chess

NATIONAL MASTER ANDREW Vasquez stunned top seed GM Mark Paraguay in the third round of the Mayor Allen G. Singson Cup dubbed as 2006 Candon City Chess Championships at the KEA Mall & Fun Center, in Candon City, Ilocos Sur, Saturday.

The No. 10 seed Vasquez, a former member of the Milo Checkmate coaching staff, skillfully handled the white pieces in their Sicilian Defense game to prevail after 39 moves and up his total to a perfect 3.0 points.

Vasquez shares the lead with International Master Richard Biton, 12-

year-old Fide Master Wesley So and National Master Emmanuel Senador in the event sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

"Nakatsamba lang tayo kay Mark (Paraguay)," said Vasquez, a mainstay of the Technological Institute of the Philippines team during his college days.

Five-time national champion Woman International Master Christine Rose Mariano also wielded the upset axe at the expense of No. 6 seed FIDE Master Jesse Noel Sales and climbed to 2.5 points.

The No. 25 seed Mariano,

younger sister of GM Nelson, on the other hand, beat 1993 US Open champion Sales using the black pieces in 21 moves of a Pirc Defense.

Mariano, a Philippine Air Force enlisted personnel, was in the company of IM Barlo Nadera, Edmundo Gatus, Jan Vincent Paragua, NM Mirabeau Maga, NM Alex Milagrosa and Christian Arroyo.

The 21-year-old Paragua got stuck at 2.0 points in the company of FM Oliver Dunakling, NM Eduardo Agagon, NM Romeo Amper, Razel Lagman, Bauden Corpuz, Jony Habla, Nazario Ubanan.



PARAGUA



CORPORATE CUP CHAMPS: Camp John Hay Golf Club chair Robert John Sobrepocha (center) and event founder Cecil Hechanova (3rd from right) join the members of Group 1 champion Le Chef during the awarding ceremonies of the 18th Philippine Corporate Cup golf tournament recently at the 19th Tee of Camp John Hay in Baguio City. Showing off their trophies are, from left, Rommel Gomez, Goody Ignacio, Le Chef owner Billy King, Fred Puckett and Ben Licican. Ignacio also won the individual title.

Sportshouse Sportstacle 2006 slated at Atrium March 16-22

BIG-NAME PERSONALITIES WILL GRACE Sportshouse's Sportstacle 2006 at the Atrium of SM Megamall from March 16-22.

Coach Norman Black and former pro Ed Cordero will teach basketball fundamentals, Allan Caldwell and Pido Jarencio will reveal the secret of their 3-point shooting prowess while other PBA and PBL stars will add glitter to the Sportshouse-organized grand affair.

The widest array of top sporting brands at huge discounts will be available. Those in-

terested may participate in sports clinics/demos (taekwondo/basketball/badminton/darts) with the expert. They can also enjoy the fun games in the seven-day affair supported by Dunlop, Kusun, Kix, Prince, Kontrol and Robson.

According to Rot Ordiales, marketing manager of Sportshouse, there will also be a sportswear fashion show featuring the latest designs and styles courtesy of Axi, Accel, Green Timesports and Activin and Fitness.

Nat'l Students caging elates Lina

BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines president Joey Lina expressed elation over the success of the 60th National Students Basketball Championship held recently in Daet, Camarines Norte and Legazpi City in Bicol.

Lina said the fact that West Negros College, a team from Bacolod City in Region VI, won the inter-collegiate title, is a testament to the BAP's continuing efforts to discover and nurture basketball talents from the countryside.

The former senator also noted that Iloilo National High School, from the same region, also reached the finals of the secondary division although it eventually lost to Philippine Christian University.

"As the only legitimate na-

tional association for amateur basketball in the country, the BAP has long advocated the development of basketball in the grassroots level," said Lina. "This is why we continue to come up with tournaments like this to discover and nurture basketball talents who will one day carry the country's colors in international tournaments."

At the same time, Lina said the tournament would not have been successful if not for the full support of so many people, especially the heads of the local governments concerned in the Bicol region.

"There are so many people to thank for the success of the tournament in Bicol, but I would like to make special mention of Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez, Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus



LINA

Typoco and Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, provincial board member Ralph Andes and Albay's Sto. Domingo Municipal Mayor Herbe Aguiar," said Lina. "Other officials of Camarines Norte, Albay and Legazpi City also deserve our thanks."

Lina also extended his gratitude to the BAP officials who helped in ensur-

ing that the tournament will push through despite the crisis besetting the association, which was expelled by the Philippine Olympic Committee but continues to be recognized by the International Basketball Federation.

"I would like to commend my colleagues in the BAP like our chairman Michel Lhuillier, vice president for Visayas Yanyoy Alcosaba, vice president for Luzon Wilson Young, our executive vice president Christian Tin, treasurer Tony Fabico and secretary general Graham Lam for a job well done."

For his part, Lina said he would like to thank the referees, table officials and other BAP officials who made sure that the tournament would run smoothly.

Local yachtsman wins in Singapore

AVID PROFESSIONAL YACHTSMAN Jun Avevilla recently won in the Cruiser-Racer class of the Singapore Straits Regatta, an international yachting competition.

Avevilla skippered Selma Star, a

brand new Beneteau 36.7 yacht, to a win in her maiden competition.

The win enabled Avevilla to duplicate the feat of Ray Ordoeza in international yachting competitions. Selma Star also won the IRC B Division of the Standard-

Insurance-Smart Infinity Manila to Boracay Race held last mid-February. From April 18-22, Avevilla will participate in the President's Cup Regatta, an annual yacht race which draws competitors from the China Sea Race in Hong Kong.

3-day clinic for Coach E cagefest set

A THREE-DAY BASKETBALL CLINIC IS IN STORE for participants of the Coach E Summer Basketball Tournament set on May 2 at the clubsixfifty in Libis, Quezon City, and the Xavier School in Greenhills.

The clinic set on April 22, 25 and 27 is aimed at giving players from 6 to 16 years old a glimpse of what the pioneering and personalized Coach E approach is all about.

"Individuals or small groups who are part of the tournament will participate in the pre-tournament clinic as a bonus," said International Basketball Academy (IBA) president Xavi Nunag.

Nunag said individuals are more than welcome to join. "If you're a just an individual who would want to play, then we will find a team for you."

The tournament is set for eight days and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday during the month of May.

Registration will be held at the clubsixfifty from 10 am to 5 pm on March 18 and 25. Contact 6311195 or 09217562639 and e-mail address liba_phil@yahoo.com for details.



EFREN "Bata" Reyes: Ready for tough competition.

Bata aims for Japan 9-Ball Open repeat

FILIPINO BILLIARDS GREAT EFREN "BATA" Reyes seeks to win the Japan 9-Ball Open for the second straight year against some of the world's best, including countryman Django

Reyes will be eyeing his third major international victory since coming back from an eye operation last year. The 51-year-old won the \$200,000 International Pool Tour and the One-Pocket play of the Derby City Classic in Kentucky.

Reyes, together with Bustamante, will depart for Japan on Wednesday. The tournament is set March 17-18 in Tokyo.

"I will do my best," said Reyes, who beat Rodol-

fo "Boy Samson" Liat in the finals last year.

Southeast Asian Games double gold winner Rubilen "Bingkey" Amit and Iris Rafiola will play in the ladies' division with billiards patron Ansteeo "Putch" Puyat and Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo bankrolling their stint.

"I learned so much in the World Championships in Taipei," the 24-year-old Amit said. "I just hope to use the experience in Japan."

Amit bowed out in the round-of-24 against Charlotte Sorensen of Sweden, 6-7, in her first World 9-ball meet, which was won by Kim Ga-young of South Korea.

Manila to host Asian 9-ball ladies

THE ASIAN LADIES 9-BALL TOURNAMENT will be held April 26 to 28 in Manila, sportsman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat has announced. Rubilen "Bingkey" Amit, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold winner, said she's very happy with the turn

of events. "I'm very happy when I learned from Sir Putch (Puyat) that the Asian ladies will be held here," said Amit in Filip.no. "This will be a big help to our players who need international exposure."

Marion Bernardino, Contributor

Wiloci golf slated

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY this year, the UP Women Lawyer's Circle or WILOCI will hold its 2nd WILOCI Golf Tournament on March 17 at the Tagaytay Midlands, Tagaytay City, lawyer Delia L. Hermoso, head of the group, has announced. For inquiries, call Loi Maulan or Emma Macadangang at 636-5826.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1-(Or/Tri)-West N Wild (7), Hurry Putter (10), Pangako Sa'Yo (7), Empire Lady (5)
Race 2-(Or/Tri)-Epic Energy (3), Magic Bullet (2), Landing Man (7), Palutina (4)
Race 3-(Or/Tri)-Kaiphila (7), Nothing To Denial (9), Manila's Style (10), Renda Slays (4)
Race 4-(Penta/Tri)-Speed Bullet (1), Casanova (11), Native Prince (3), Dally (1), Carmelita (4)
Race 5-(Or/Tri)-La Tienne (8), Control Freak (2), Callifornia Lady (1), Dream Cross (3)
Race 6-(Penta/Tri)-Play It Again (11), Magiliv (1), Brazen Truth (10),

Kalashnikov (8), Sir Gilzon (9)
Race 7-Moab/Real Spicy (1)
Race 8-(Or/Tri)-My Shellk (8), Court General (9), Magic Dancer (10), Prouette (14)
Race 9-(Penta/Tri)-Dashing (10), Worth Ur While (4), Solomon (3), Top Most (8), Mountain Eagle (9)
Race 10-(Or/Tri)-Winter's Fury (1), Aryam (6), Alexis Magic (7), Lord Of All (7)
Race 11-(Penta/Tri)-Chicklet (6), Hurry Prince (8), Aminin (8), Truly Impressive (10), Valiente (14)
Race 12-(Or/Tri)-Rockwell (9), La Signoria (14), Gemstone (2), Rai Bambini (10)
Race 13-(Super 6/Or/Tri)-Blitzkrieg (9), Britney's Magic (1), Ravishing Ruffy (12), Mano Po (11), Revelation (5), Hezabellagio (2)

NOT TRUE THAT Z GORRES HAD GONE TO AMERICA just once. Twice already.

Not true also that he deserted Rudy Salud. It was Rudy Salud who initiated Gorres' transfer to the stable of Tony Aldeguer, Cebu's most celebrated boxing manager after Wakee Salud.

My mistake. I apologize. The corrections came from Rudy Salud himself so, who's complaining?

Not me. My mistake. I apologize.

I sent Z twice to America mainly to have his skills sharpened and employed a boxing expert there to put more power to his punches," said Salud, talking to me from his bed at home by telephone.

"I did that because the first time I saw him fight, I knew he'd be a strong material to become a world champion. He needed only polishing and so, I thought sending him to America would do it."

The play paid off as recent events in the boxing career of Z Gorres would prove. Rudy Salud's find has yet to taste a defeat the last two years or so and could very well be on the road to the world throne.

To be sure, I am a fan, too, of Z Gorres and should there be someone out there

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



chinking that I think ill of him, quit the crap.

As proof to my undiminished admiration of Z Gorres, I had devoted an entire column about him a while back, thanks to George Alcantara. Glowingly, I must admit, was the piece I had written about the kid.

One night some time ago, George Alcantara, Rudy Salud's most trusted friend for more than three decades now, introduced me to Z Gorres at the Sulo Restaurant in Quezon City. Almost immediately, I liked Z the minute I shook his rock-hard hand. Very polite and respectful, Z spoke almost in whispers. That evening, it was as though Z wanted to make his fists and not his lips do the talking. I could barely hear him, the words flowing out of his mouth like mere droplets of rain. Barely audible.

His eyes would dart and dash, like arrows just released.

"He is a very quiet boy," Rudy Salud said of Z Gorres. "It is not hard to like him. In fact, I found it quite difficult to let go of him. Only when I thought of Tony (Aldeguer) as his new manager did I finally have peace of mind about parting ways with him. There's no better man than Tony who can give Z all the support to make him become our next world champion."

Take a bow, Tony? And while we are at it, it is not also true that Solar Sports had covered four Manny Pacquiao fights. Six times already. The correction came from a Solar Sports executive who requested anonymity.

"Thank you for highlighting Solar Sports' humble contribution to the Manny Pacquiao saga," came the text-message from a Solar Sports official. "We wish him good luck, as usual, in his next fight and future fights."

THANK YOU, THANK YOU. It's nice to hear that George Chua of Red Bull has given P50,000 to Bert Cuevas, the sports editor of Manila Standard/TO-

DAY who is seriously ill with diabetes. May George's tribe increase. I'm sure there are still lots out there who have given help not only to Bert but also to Burch Manago. Burch is also a fellow journalist-broadcaster who's undergoing kidney dialysis three times a week. There's a fund-raising affair for the two later this month at Merk's Bistro, Greenbelt 3 in Makati. I raise my glass to my colleagues Ed Picson and Beth Ceas, who are spearheading the charity show hosted no less by the maestro himself, Richard Merk. Richard is just about the only singer-artist I know whose philanthropic ways are almost without equal. Cheers!

FASTBREAK. Seemingly, there was a tinge of sadness etched on the face of Howard Beiton during the Unilever Barkada Golf at Wack Wack on March 7. Was it the Unilever chairman's farewell performance? Say it ain't so, Mr. Beiton? I was almost tempted to ask Chito Macapagal, the ever dashing, hard-working Unilever golf man cog. Say it ain't so, Chito?

Comments to manju@piddt

SPORTSWATCH

TM Go for Gold goes to Mindanao

MINDANAO BOXING FANS WERE TREATED TO TOUCH MOBILE'S GO FOR GOLD in General Santos City yesterday, and in Davao City today. The GenSan betis will test the mettle of their counterparts from Sarangani Province at the Magsaysay Park. "The TM Go for Gold in Mindanao is proof of ABAP's commitment to grassroots development," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez. Sponsors are Pacific Heights and Touch Mobile. The event is being aired NBMA every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. Rizal Park will host the Davao City event with the Almandras Gym as an alternate venue. Tres de Mayo Holiday Bus boxing team tackles Davao City. Lopez also thanked GenSan Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte for their support.

Featherweight bout in Fistorama

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON AN EXCITING TEN-ROUND BOUT IN the featherweight division between top-rated Jack Asis and Rodney Alba. The bout was the main event in promoter Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held recently at the Camayan Covered Court in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Fistorama, supported by Tanduay, PCSO, Hope and Mapecom, is aired at 3:30 p.m. Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring College of St. Benilde Team 1 against College of St. Benilde Team 2.

Dalawahan active chess begins

THE MCC DALAWAHAN ACTIVE CHESS BEGINS AT 11 A.M. TODAY AT THE lower second floor of St. Francis Square at Doria Julia Vargas cor Bank Drive behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The competition is a team event composed of two players. Each entry can field a master provided the team's average active rating doesn't exceed 2050. The master can play in Board One only. Up for grabs is a total pot of P15,000 with the champion tandem getting the top purse of P5000. Entry fee per team is P700. Interested parties are advised to register at least before the tournament starts or call 828-8560 and 0916-852-1069 or 0922-539-7392.

Aguilar hosts Las Piñas derby today

FORMER MAYOR NENE AGUILAR WILL HOST THE WEBBER 45 3-COCK DERBY, featuring 51 fights, tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. The first fight is set at 7. For an entry fee of P5,500, the cash prize at stake is P150,000. Last March 4, Balangas breeder Mandy Garcia topped the special 4-cock derby when his MG Farms entry posted four win. Up next at LPC is another 3-cock event on Wednesday, March 15 with Mario Blanco as host. The Parnigay Premyo 3-cock derby is also slated on March 23 and 25, with P150,000 in guaranteed prize going to the winners. Entry fee is P2,200. Interested parties may contact the LPC office: 873-1040 and 874-3910 (look for Julius).

45 entries listed for Jobo cockfest

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES FOR THE JOBO 5-COCK DERBY BLASTING off at the Makati Coliseum on March 27 has reached 45 as of yesterday. Participants in the event sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace include Ric de Guzman, Boy Rojo, Boy Javier, Louie Cue, Mayor Eddie Alanilla, Willie Villarica, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Elwin Javelosa, Jun Zuniga, Rep. Baby Asistio, Ram Lopez, Col Katigbak, Max Roxas and Philip Chiongblan. Host Lito Orillaza, one of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.'s top honchos, said the guaranteed prize is P1 million. Meanwhile, the "Super Pacman 5-cock derby" unfolds tomorrow with 70 fights on tap. Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, who arrived from Hong Kong yesterday, will host the derby. For inquiries, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Araneta 5-cocker set on Tuesday

BIG TIME COCKFIGHTING RESUMES AT THE ARANETA COLISEUM ON TUESDAY and Thursday (March 14 and 16) with the staging of For Team Philippines 5-cock derby. Part of derby proceeds will be given to national athletes, according to derby host Paping Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. Meanwhile, the second leg of the Philippine Heritage Cup 5-cock derby sizzles on March 21 and 23, with P1.2 million at stake. Entry fee is P10,000. The event is being held under the auspices of the Luzon-Based Gamefowl Breeders Association (LBGBA). For inquiries, contact LBGBA office: 926-7808/924-5072/924-5051 (loc. 128).

JVC reg'l badminton in Cebu

FOCUS WILL BE ON THE local betis when the JVC Regional Badminton Championships start its four-leg provincial circuit beginning April 3-7 at the Holiday Spa in Baniad, Cebu City. Last year's winners Spyro Mijares of University of San Jose Recoletos and Hazel Peroy of University of Cebu are expected to go all out for their second straight victories in their respective divisions in the elite side in this third staging of the event sponsored by JVC (PHILS.), Inc. For details, check website at www.jvcbadminton.com or e-mail at jvcbadminton@hotmail.com or call 0917-8050702 (Tovette); 0917-8050601 (Carol); 0917-5288970 (Nelson).

Basketball at Internet

HOOP JUNKIES CAN now get their daily dose of cage action in a click of a mouse. Visit www.gametace.ph and enter into a cyber universe that focuses on Philippine amateur basketball. Gametace.ph is the official internet media portal of several amateur tournaments, including the Fr. Martin Cup and the Home and Away League, as well as other events leading up to the next UAAP and NCAA seasons. Recently, it created specific School Team Sites and forums for the most popular varsity teams in the country. President and CEO Henry B. Abes created the site in October 2005.

Alam mo ba na ang ating PUSO ay isa sa WALANG KAPAGURANG ORGAN ng ating katawan? Gaano ito kahalaga sa PAGPAPANATILI ng ating IBAYONG LAKAS? Paano NAKAKATULONG ang TEAVIGO at L-CARNITINE sa pagkakaroon ng MALUSOG na PUSO? Handa ka na bang ALAMIN ang KASAGUTAN? Tumutok ngayong LINGGO, MARCH 12, 2006 sa...



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Isinbayeva targets another world reco

MOSCOW—TERRENCE Trammell recovered from a disappointing third-place sprint finish to easily advance from the first round of 60-meter hurdles at the World Indoor Championship on Saturday.

Trammell won his heat in 7.64 seconds, a day after having to settle for bronze medal in the 60-meter dash.

"It was disappointing, I had a bad start, and that's that," Trammell said. "I had to get back and focus on my other race. There is a lot of work to be done."

The American had been seeking an unprecedented sprint-hurdle double. He won the 2001 indoor hurdles title and had his first attempt at the double ruined in 2003 by

an injury.

Trammell returns for the hurdles semifinal and final later Saturday and still has a chance of winning a medal in both events.

Cuban newcomer Dayron Robles, 19, cruised home in 7.55 seconds to lead all qualifiers.

"It was my first race ever indoors and it felt well," Robles said. "Let's see what happens in the next rounds."

Dominique Arnold of the United States stumbled slightly coming off the final hurdle to finish well behind Robles in 7.67.

"I felt a little sluggish. I'm not used to the track, it's a bit bouncy," Arnold said.

In her first championship appearance since surviving a car accident in Florida in 2002 that killed her mother and a friend, Michelle Freeman of Jamaica ran the fastest heat in the women's hurdles in 7.90, just one hundredth slower than her season's best.

Freeman won the indoor title in 1997 and

took silver in 2001.

The 36-year-old, who raced to World Indoor gold in 1997 and silver in 2001, cruised to a 7.90 win, just one one hundredth shy of her seasons best.

"I'm in good shape," Freeman said. "It doesn't matter if I start on a high note or not. I just know that I'll be there."

World decathlon champion Bryan Clay of the United States led after two events in the heptathlon by 151 points over perennial rival Roman Sebrle, the Olympic champion from the Czech Republic.

Sebrle was last in the 60-meter dash but came back in the long jump by soaring 7.76 meters and leading the second event all the way. Clay landed a jump of 7.74, however, to stretch his overall lead.

While the first day belonged to the Americans, the Russians were hoping to make up ground Saturday.

The US team won three of the first four fi-

nals, including the two 60-meter sprints.

Leonard Scott ran the fastest time in the world this year to win the men's 60 and Melissa Barber did the same in the women's.

On Saturday, though, the attention was on the star of the Russian team, world and Olympic champion pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva who is aiming for her 20th world record.

Of the previous 19, 11 were outdoors and eight came indoors—but none came in Russia.

With a new coach, Isinbayeva's biggest competition could come from Russian compatriot Svetlana Peofanova, who looked confident in clearing 4.50. Two Polish vaulters, Anna Rogowska and Monika Pyrek, also are medal contenders.

Isinbayeva already has unproved her indoor record this season, clearing 4.91 meters in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Feb. 12. She has

dominated women's pole vaulting years and holds the outdoor mark.

On Friday, US sprinters dominated. Reese Hoffa won the men's shot, the only non-American winner was

la Blonska of Ukraine in the pentathlon. Scott ran 6.50 seconds to win medal after having earlier won semifinal in the same time. Barber clocked 7.01 seconds to edge world 100-meter outdoor champion Lauryn Williams, who was given the same time. AP



New Improved MILO wins big in the Philippines

Top riders arrive for masters' race

THE BULK OF THE PARTICIPATING foreign delegation is expected to fly in next week in time for the FIM-UAM 2006 Motocross Masters of Asia set March 18-19 at the Puerto Princesa City motocross racetrack adjacent near the City Hall.

Preparations for event supervised by Puerto Princesa City mayor himself Edward Hagedorn and City Administrator lawyer Agustin Rocamora are on its final stages and will be ready for practice by next week.

"We're hoping to duplicate, if not surpass, the success of the past two stagings here," said Hagedorn. "And with the number of tourists coming in for the event, we hope to firm up Puerto Princesa's tag as the Sports Tourism Capital of the country."

Over 40,000 local townsfolk are expecting the exciting showdown in Round 2 of the 2006 FIM-UAM Asia-Pacific Motocross Championship organized by the NAMSSA and supported by the City of Puerto Princesa, the Philippine Sports Commission, Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of

Import Services.

The intricate track design, approved by the FIM Motocross Commission, will surely add flavor to the brewing rivalry between New Zealand ace James Robinson and the Philippines' multitalented champ Glenn Aguilar.

The uphill and downhill routes, the treacherous narrow turns, the triple jumps, the whoop-de-dos, and the challenging table top will surely put their skills and strategy to test.

Aside from that, the two top favorites will have to survive the big challenge from equally strong contenders Teddy Otsuka of Japan, Aep Dadang Supriatna and Denny Orlando of Indonesia, Jye Harvey of Australia and defending champion Arnon "Turbo" Theplib of Thailand for the coveted crown in the centerpiece 125cc class, the Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn Cup, a sterling silver trophy.

For details, email namssa01@hotmail.com or call 0917-8992363 or check out www.asiamoto.org or www.namssamoto.org.



SWEDISH Annika Sorenstam eyes the ball in the ninth hole during the first day of the LPGA Tour Mexican Open in Bosque Real, Mexico State. See story on page 32

85 million Pinoys enjoy something more nutritious, more delicious everyday

Basketball makes Games debut

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—BASKETBALL makes its Commonwealth Games debut in Melbourne with host nation Australia the overwhelming favorites in a tournament weakened by high-profile absences.

The Games will feature eight-nation competitions for men's and women's basketball but the event's timing means many professional players based in Europe and North America have been unable to make the long trip to Australia.

Australian Lauren Jackson, widely regarded as the best women's player in the world, is attending but NBA first draft

pick Andrew Bogut will not play in front of his hometown crowd because of commitments with his Milwaukee Bucks.

Canada, potentially one of Australia's major challengers alongside New Zealand's Tall Blacks, decided against sending any basketballers to Melbourne because it was so concerned about the unavailability of top players.

Canada Basketball chief executive Fred Nykamp said recently that he disliked his country missing an international tournament but saw little benefit in sending a team of developing players to face Australians and New Zealanders who

have just finished their professional do-

"They would be up against Australia and New Zealand, who are retaining all of their pros," Nykamp said.

"It was a real contrast for us, we were struggling to put anything together, and at the end, we felt it was best to pass—results are a concern but not our only concern."

Nigeria are considered the tournament's next strongest basketball nation after Australia and New Zealand, although Australian men's coach Brian Goorjian believes England could also pose a threat. AFP

Renault Club holds Bahrain GP party

THE MILD SEVEN RACING F1 Club will celebrate the start of the primetime F1 races with a kick-off viewing party of the Bahrain Grand Prix (GP) on Sunday, March 12, 7 p.m., at the Aruba in Metrowalk in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Fans can look forward to a night of thrill and fun especially after the Mild Seven Renault team finished an exceptional season last year and is gunning for a back-to-back world championship this year.

A live coverage of the action will be shown on wide screens at

the venue and there will be numerous games with authentic Mild Seven Renault F1 Team merchandise at stake as prizes.

The Sakhr circuit where the Bahrain GP will be held was formerly a picturesque oasis which was once a camel farm nestled in the Bahrain desert.

Expert track designers took about two years to carve out a state-of-the-art racing facility in what mostly used to be dry, rocky wilderness.

The Mild Seven F1 Club is open to all race enthusiasts 18 years old and above.



SUMMIT POINT INAUGURAL: Sen. Ralph Recto (third from left) leads guests and club officials during the inaugural tournament of the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City. From left: Aboy Jalandoni, senior board member Marc Leviste, Recto, Summit Point president Robbie Leviste, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. and Sta. Lucia Realty club manager Vic de Guzman.

VP 'Kabayan' graces Summit Point opening

LIPA CITY, BATANGAS—VICE PRESIDENT Noli "Kabayan" De Castro led the cast of those who trooped for the opening of the Summit Point Golf and Country Club's World 18 golf course here.

The vice president was joined by transportation secretary Larry Mendoza, Sen. Ralph Recto, Gov. Conrad Leviste of Summit Point Realty/Leviste Group, Hon. Toti Cariño of Fil-Estate Marketing, Mr. Exequiel Robles of Sta. Lucia Development and Mr. Robert Trent Jones II, designer of the Summit Point golf

Also gracing the opening were actor John Estrada, comedian Anjo Yllana, Apo singer Buboy Garovillo, TV host and newspaper columnist

Johnny Liton, Summit Point president Lauro Leviste II, Senior Provincial Board Member Marc Leviste, former finance secretary Cesar Purisima, former Sen. Tesse Aquino-Oreta and former Batangas City councilor Nick Plata.

"Summit Point is a celebration of golf's best," says Jones. "Every golfer dreams of playing in Augusta, Georgia, Pebble Beach, California (both in the United States) and St. Andrews in England to name a few. We were inspired by these interesting holes and consolidated them into one course, and can be played here in Summit Point."

The Northern European-themed golf clubhouse was designed by G&W Architects and is complete

with men and women locker rooms with shower areas, Jacuzzi, spa, golfer's lounge and dining, function rooms, fitness center, pro-shop and and putt area.

The residential Country Club is expected to rise by 2008.

Leviste said that Summit Point golf will help boost local tourism and encourage young Batangueños to get into golf.



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Local Mamat keeps Singapore golf lead

SINGAPORE—MARDAN MAMAT SHOT A 2-under-par 70 Saturday to extend his lead heading into the final round of the Singapore Masters.

The hometown favorite played a mostly steady round with three birdies and looked on course for a three-stroke lead until he bogeyed on the last two holes at Laguna Golf and Country Club, reducing his lead to one shot.

England's Nick Dougherty, the tournament's defending champion, stormed up the leaderboard into second place with a 67.

Dougherty, who ended the previous round in joint fifth place, made six birdies on the front nine, including birdies on his first three holes, but his run was interrupted by a double bogey on the par-4 fourth.

In joint third place with a 9-under 207 were South Korean Charie Wi, whose eight birdies and one bogey gave him a 65, and England's Ross Fisher, who scored a bogey-free 68 with four birdies.

"Maybe a couple of times, I was defensive hitting a shorter club into the wind just protecting from going over the flag," Fisher said. "But to come away with four birdies and no bogeys is really pleasing."

Thailand's Chaphai Nirat carded six consecutive birdies on the front nine and five birdies on the back, but his spectacular run was weighed down when his ball found water at the par-3 eighth and 17th holes, where he shot a triple and a double bogey respectively.

"I knew I had to be careful. I was a little scared and there was pressure too," said Nirat, whose 66 moved him into fifth place. "Maybe the pressure got to me."

In sixth place at 7-under 209 were Dane Anders Hansen (66) and Englishman Andrew Butterfield (66), while Wade Ormsby and Prayad Marksaeng were in eighth.

The Singapore Masters is jointly sanctioned by the European and Asian Tours. Reuters

Räikkönen encounters flying problems

RAIKKONEN FAILED TO COMING for Sunday's season-opening after his McLaren suffered a suspension failure.

Out the red flags in the first of bouncing off the track at speed. The wing had sheared off, leaving the car at an angle.

At introduced this season, qualifying sessions with the bottom six for two 15 minute periods eliminated then fight for pole position in a runner-up last season with several stricken car back to the pits

while the session was suspended but there was not enough time for repairs.

He is expected to start from the back of the grid.

When the session started again, drivers had to queue up to leave the pitlane. World champion Fernando Alonso was fastest with Britain's Jenson Button, aiming for his first win after 100 starts, second.

Both Super Aguri cars, driven by Japan's Takuma Sato and Yuji Ide, failed to get through to the second session as did the Midlands of Christian Albers and Tiago Monteiro and Toyota's Ralf Schumacher.

The following cars were eliminated in the first two qualifying sessions at the Bahrain Grand Prix on Saturday: In the second session: Jacques Villeneuve (Canada) BMW, Sauber Nico Rosberg (Germany) Williams, David Coulthard (Britain)

Red Bull, Jarno Trulli (Italy) Toyota, Vitantonio Liuzzi (Italy) Scuderia Toro Rosso, Scott Speed (US) Scuderia Toro Rosso, In the first session: Ralf Schumacher (Germany) Toyota, Christian Albers (Netherlands) Midland, Tiago Monteiro (Portugal) Midland, Yuji Ide (Japan) Super Aguri, Takuma Sato (Japan) Super Aguri, Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) McLaren. Reuters

Manila Bay sea sports tilt slated

SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS Manila Baywalk along Manila Bay Summer on Mar 25 and 26. The water and beach sports include boat racing, sailing, wall-climbing compe-

test of the event is to be comprised of and Formula (Mod-

specification of the engine should be standard and Formula (Mod-

Stratton (13-, 16- and 18-horsepower).

Bigger prizes are at stake this year for the Bancathon stock race winners, including P130,000 plus a Briggs & Stratton engine and Cord Marine Epoxy for the grand champion.

The second place winner will take home P70,000 plus a Briggs & Stratton Engine and Cord Marine Epoxy, while third place takes home P40,000 plus Cord Marine Epoxy.

Meanwhile, the grand prize winner for the Formula (Modified) Race gets P70,000 plus a Cord Marine Epoxy; 2nd place wins P40,000 plus Cord Marine Epoxy and 3rd place gets P20,000 plus Cord Marine Epoxy.

Dragon Boat tournaments are also set to run

during the two-day event such as local Olympic rowers, Southeast Asian and Asian Games medalists, national rowers and members of the Philippine team training pool race along the bay.

Hobbyists and university athletes will also be competing in sailing, wall climbing and beach volleyball. A climbing wall and beach volleyball court will be set up at the fountain area of the Rajah Sulaiman Park fronting Baywalk.

The two day-long sportfest by the bay will culminate with an awards night and free live concert and fashion show.

The event is organized by the Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC).



Breakthrough Equation:

Two glasses of MILO with milk = 27% of child's energy needs
(Read all about it at the back of the MILO pack)

Pening powers Iligan dribblers past Oro Rapids

GAME TODAY (Xavier University Gym)
5:30 p.m.—Cagayan de Oro vs. Montana Pawnshop-Davao

CAGAYAN DE ORO—BURLY EDUARDO PENING SCORED ON A LAYUP with 11 seconds remaining to lift Iligan City to a come-from-behind 100-99 victory over host Cagayan de Oro Rapids in the Mindanao-Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) tournament at the jam-packed Xavier University Gym.

Pening, who topscored with 21 points, teamed up with Alex Bognot in the clutch to give the Rapids of Mayor Lawrence Cruz their third win in a row.

Bognot scored on a drive to pull Iligan City within 98-99, before stealing off Jong Rebuya and setting up Pening's basket.

In the ensuing play, Cagayan de Oro's Robin Mendoza hurriedly took the inbound and set up Cesar Estolano, who muffed a desperate three-point attempt.

It was a heartbreaking loss for the Rapids who led by as much as 15 points, 81-66, late in the third period.

Anes Gloria sparked Iligan City's rally, scoring nine points early in the fourth quarter. Erickson Araman backed up Pening with 19 while Bognot and Gloria chipped in 14 points apiece.

Pagcor warns on poker tilts

THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING Corp. (Pagcor) has warned the public against engaging in poker activities or events not conducted by or affiliated with the state gaming agency.

Poker and its derivatives are prohibited under Presidential Decree 1602. It may, however, be allowed with the supervision and endorsement of Pagcor.

The importation of poker paraphernalia is also prohibited under the Customs and Tariffs Code.

"Poker is perhaps the most popular card game in the world today," said Pagcor chair Ruffalo C. Genuino. "Even celebrities are now getting into it."

"However, in accordance with the law, all major poker activities and events must first go through us."

NPC golf backed

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), Great Taste 3-in-1 Mixes & C2 Green Tea, Pagcor and Isuzu Phils. head the early roster of major sponsors of the second National Press Club (NPC) President's Cup golf tournament firing off March 23 at Club Intramuros. First Gentleman Mike Arroyo will hit the ceremonial drive to kick off the 18-hole tournament. Registration is ongoing. For inquiries, call 301-0521 to 22 or 521-5300.

Malt Mystery Revealed:

More malt now found in New Improved MILO
(See full story at the back of the MILO pack)

Tougher Legenda-Subic Bay Int'l Triathlon slated May 7

EXPECT A BIGGER, TOUGHER INTERNATIONAL Triathlon in Subic Bay this year.

The Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap), the Subic Legend Hotels and Casinos, and SBMA, Trap's long-term partner, have joined hands anew to put up a bigger event this year.

The hotel group has agreed to be the presentor-sponsor of this International Triathlon Union-sanctioned race, the only one in the Philippines and one of the only 14 ITU point-earning races in Asia.

Dubbed as the Legenda-Subic Bay International Triathlon, the event is expected to draw more local and overseas participants in the race set May 7.

The long-running international triathlon race, now on its 12th year, has attracted many world-class triathletes.

Last year's race was won by Israel's Ran Altermann, whose twin brother Dan figured in a dramatic finish, swaying like a man who had finished one bottle too many in the final 30 meters of the race and collapsing like a log at the finish line behind Ran and New Zealand's Ben Pulham.

Ben Pulham.

The SEMA also hosted the Asian Triathlon Championships twice, eliciting high marks from visiting triathletes and officials of the Asian Triathlon Confederation in both times. The venue also hosted the triathlon competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"We are indeed proud to be a major partner of Trap in staging this prestigious event here in Subic and it emphasizes the fact that Subic is considered an international sports hub in this part of the world," said Legenda Hotels CEO Khoo Boo Boon.

Trap president Tom Carrasco has announced the inclusion, for the first time, of the national inter-club competition in this year's championship.

"We would like to see legitimate triathlon clubs participate and not just pick up teams, and we are giving interested teams until March 15 to pre-register for the competitions," said Carrasco.

A maximum of five members per club, with a minimum of one female member, can comprise a team. The clockings of top three male members and the female member will count towards the team total.

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Nutrition Information	Per 100g Powder	Per Serving 20g (1/2 cup)	% RDI*
Energy	411	213.4	12.5
Protein	11.5	9.0	21.0
Carbohydrate	84.8	22.7	-
Total Fat	11.7	8.6	-
Actigen E			
Threonine (A1.01)	mg	1.07	0.22
Alanine (A1.02)	mg	1.14	0.6
Isoleucine (A1.03)	mg	1.28	4.25
Proline (A1.04)	mg	1.7	0.51
Phenylalanine (A1.05)	mg	4.6	1.4
Aspartic acid (A1.06)	mg	107	34.4
Glutamic acid (A1.07)	mg	107	34.4
Glutamine (A1.08)	mg	107	34.4
Asparagine (A1.09)	mg	107	34.4
Protein (A1.10)	mg	107	34.4
Iron (A1.11)	mg	10.5	4.7
Calcium (A1.12)	mg	222	38.2
Magnesium (A1.13)	mg	170	58.1

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PCU's Baby Dolphins gain new heights

A JOB WELL DONE.

That's how Philippine Christian University (PCU) president Dr. Oscar S. Suarez described the Baby Dolphins' successful title-retention campaign in the 60th National Inter-Secondary Basketball Championships held in Daet, Camarines Norte, recently.

Led by MVP awardee Allan Mangahas and handled by coach Bong Sales, the Baby Dolphins demolished Iloilo Central Commercial High School, 97-63, to become the first team since San Beda College to win back-to-back championships in the country's premier student basketball competition.

Overall, the Hapee Toothpaste-supported Baby Dolphins swept their six matches, including a record-breaking 206-47 triumph over the University of Batangas in the elimination round.

"I'm proud of this newest accomplishment of the boys," said Suarez, after receiving the trophy from the players and coaching staff. "They really did their best to bring honor to the university."

PCU athletic director Alfredo Olano said: "It's really hard to become champions in only a few years' time but the boys rose to the challenge and played with great determination."

The Baby Dolphins are now setting their sights on winning the NCAA crown and possibly, a third straight national inter-secondary championship.

Mangahas, last year NCAA MVP teamed up with fellow 2005 veterans Paolo Guidaben and Glenn Manluta to power the Baby Dolphins to a successful defense of the title they won over the San Beda Red Cubs in Dumaguete City last year.

They got ample support from Ralph John Lansang who was named Best Center of the tournament, Aaron Anacta, Florisel Guevarra, Jetterson Vidal, Nico Bagawisan, Carlos Pagayanan Harold Sumera and Elvin Pascual.

"Team work did it for the team. The boys played as one solid unit from beginning to end," said Sales, who was ably assisted by George Longalong, Nelson Gardula and Nino Dayao.

In the Group A elimination round, the Baby Dolphins also defeated Emar Learning Center of Davao, 102-56; University of Southern Philippines of Cebu, 96-62, and Iloilo Central Commercial School, 87-72.

In the crossover semis, PCU eliminated Southern City College of Zamboanga, 103-78.

PCU repeated over Iloilo Central Commercial High School for the title.



WORLD INDOOR: Italy's Antonietta Di Martino competes in the women's high jump qualifications at the 11th IAAF World Indoor Championships in Moscow. Di Martino qualified for the final.

UAAP, NCAA RIVALS

Ex-cage stars back in Homegrown Cup

By June Navarro

FORMER CAGE STARS PUT ON their old sneakers to represent their respective schools in the UAAP and NCAA in a tournament dubbed the Total-Filoil-Flying V Homegrown Cup.

Commissioner Virgil Villavicencio said the competition will try to relive the hard court exploits of former standouts from Ateneo, De La Salle, Far Eastern, Letran, San Beda College and University of the Philippines, who later became attractions in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Among the former pros playing are Steve Watson, Fritz Gaston and Joy Carpio of Ateneo, La Salle's Lim Eng Beng and now San Miguel coach Jong Uichico, Chito Loyzaga, Boybits Victoria and Frankie Lim of San Beda, UP's Ronnie Magsanoc, Glenn Capacio, Har-

mon Codifera and Ronald Magtalls of FEU and Letran's Samboy Lun.

The tournament kicks off on March 18 at the San Juan Gymnasium along with a junior division from the six participating teams.

"This is a reunion of sorts for the varsity stars of the past," said Villavicencio, who graced yesterday's press conference at the Kamayan Edsa together with league chair David Dualan and project director Anthony Suntay.

The inaugural season will have two conferences with the next conference slated in September.

Tournament format calls for a single-round battle with the top two teams vying for the winner-take-all championship game.

The tournament is also sponsored by Im-muvit, X-24 and Accel.

Former PBA coach Chito Narvasa will call the shots for Ateneo, Glenn Capacio for FEU, Lim Eng Beng for La Salle, Itoy Esguerra for Letran, Chito Loyzaga for San Beda and Raymond Celis for UP.

Spring Oil, Tagaytay capture NBC openers

TAGAYTAY CITY—SPRING COOKING OIL-PARAñaque and Batang Tagaytay bested their respective rivals to share the early lead in the National Basketball Conference's third season Friday at the International Convention Center here.

The Cooking Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Parañaque Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana rallied to beat Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila, 87-80.

Then NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay Mayor Bambo Tolentino's cagers outstepped Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 90-88, in an exciting, see-saw battle that delighted the huge hometown crowd.

Niño Marquez powered his team to victory in the tourney sponsored by Molten, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods, Spring Cooking Oil, Prime Channel and Sulpicio Lines.

A late addition to Tagaytay, Marquez scored 12 straight points highlighted by back-to-back treys for a 42-40 edge.

Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi graced the hour-long opening rites together with Padilla, Tolentino, NBC sec gen Tito Palma, former Villasis, Pangasinan mayor Monching Morden and other local government officials.

Mar Reyes scored nine straight points to wipe out a 72-70 Bacchus/Harbour lead and give Spring-Parañaque a nine-point lead which it held until the end.

The scores:
SPRING 87—Reyes 18, Yambao 15, Manuel 11, Neo 10, De Castro 9, Capobres 7, Morante 5, Samson 5, Barato 2
BACCHUS 80—Buenafa 17, Sta. Cruz 15, Membrera 13, Epondulan 11, Masbang 7, Pile 7, Hardin 5, Reroma 0
Quarters: 16-25, 35-47, 66-57, 87-80
TAGAYTAY 90—Marquez 24, Reyes 20, Diaz 12, Guiyab 11, Jorge 11, Mallari 7, Robillos 6, Malonzo 5
PANGASINAN 88—Mamaclay 20, Lopez 16, Valdez 13, Fontanilla 9, Belares 8, Gonzales 7, David 6, marucot 4, Zablan 3, Ortega 2, Igo 0
Quarters: 27-28, 42-43, 75-74, 90-88



CAVITE Gov. Ayong Maliksi makes the ceremonial toss between Pangasinan's Jovy Sese (left) and Batang Tagaytay's Arden Guiyab in the opening of NBC's third season. Flanking Maliksi are NBC president Tac Padilla (striped T-shirt) and Tagaytay Mayor Bambo Tolentino.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Puerto Ricans humble Cuban clouters

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA—A CONTRO-versy-nagged Cuban team suffered a humbling 12-2 loss to host Puerto Rico at the World Baseball Classic on Friday while political rival United States romped into the second round.

Home runs by Bernie Williams, Carlos Beltran and Alex Cintron led Puerto Rico in a game halted by the "mercy" rule after seven innings, only the second early-stoppage loss inflicted on Cuba, the first coming 13-1 to Taiwan in 1983.

"These are things that simply happen in the game of baseball," Cuba manager Higinio Velez said. "If this were to occur on a frequent basis for Cuba, this would be

rather worrisome. But this is not the case."

Unbeaten Puerto Rico and Cuba had already booked second-round berths with Venezuela and the Dominican Republic in the first global showdown using Major League Baseball talent. That group opens play Sunday in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Hours after threatening to withdraw over their delegation leader's ejection a night earlier after a clash with an anti-Fidel Castro protester, Cuba was trounced by a foe it plays again Wednesday, likely with much more at stake.

"I would like you all to remember that we have lost the battle but not the war," Velez said. "Puerto Rico was one of our

main rivals. This notwithstanding we did not expect to have such a difference in terms of results."

South Korea, Japan and Mexico were joined in the other second-round group at Anaheim, California, by the US squad, which ripped an outmatched South African amateur unit 17-0 in a game halted by the mercy rule after five innings.

Two days after a shock 8-6 US loss to Canada, Ken Griffey Jr. smashed a pair of three-run homers to power an 18-hit American assault while Roger Clemens allowed only one hit and struck out six batters in 4 1/3 innings.

"Now that the second round is here, the

tension is going to pick up," said Griffey. "Are we going to be a little more focused? Yeah."

In other games Friday, the Dominicans remained unbeaten as Albert Pujols, Alberto Castillo and Alfonso Soriano each knocked in two runs in a 6-4 triumph over winless Australia.

And Dutch teen Shaaron Martis threw a complete game no-hitter as the Netherlands beat Panama 10-0 in a game between eliminated teams halted after seven innings by the mercy rule.

Reigning Olympic champion Cuba's woes began long before they faced Puerto Rico's \$80-million major league lineup. AFP



PUERTO Rico catcher Ivan Rodriguez shows everyone who's No. 1. AP

Kobe buries weary Spurs

Richardson's 44 helps Warriors cool Heat

SAN ANTONIO—THE DISCLAIMER has to come first, before anyone gets too carried away with what happened Friday, that the San Antonio Spurs were playing their fourth game in five nights, the toughest test for an NBA team.

They also were playing the second game of a back-to-back set, much like the Detroit Pistons were when they came to Staples Center last Saturday, a case of what Lakers coach Phil Jackson so often calls "attrition of scheduling."

With that out of the way, the Lakers now have beaten both of last season's NBA Finals teams in the last week, taking care of the Spurs 100-92 at the AT&T Center and showing signs of coming together with 19 games left in the season.

It was the Lakers' first victory over the Spurs in seven games since Shaquille O'Neal was traded and came in one of the toughest places in the NBA to win. The defending champion Spurs have gone 26-4 at home this season and were 38-3 last season.

The good feelings afterward in the locker room were such that assistant coach Brian Shaw felt the need to alert the media to breaking news. Some-

thing that had to be in the paper this morning.

After years of debate, Shaw and forward Dwyane George finally had measured the size of each other's heads. It was official: George's was bigger by three-quarters of an inch, and everybody could now put the championship days behind them.

The Lakers could be forgiven for feeling a little big-headed Friday, when they had five players finish in double figures and moved into sole possession of seventh place in the Western Conference after the Hornets' loss to Indiana.

"We're starting to play with more of a purpose," Kobe Bryant said.

The Lakers (33-30) broke open the game with a big second quarter and held off the Spurs the rest of the way. More than the victory, though, the Lakers looked like the team Jackson had envisioned when he returned as coach last June.

If one play summed up the night, it came with 9:44 left and the Lakers holding a 76-66 lead. They gave the ball to Bryant with the shot clock running out, just like so many times this season.

Instead of standing and watching Bryant take the jumper, however, Luke Walton caught Michael Finley flat-footed and cut along the baseline at the last second. Bryant rose and fired a pass to Walton, who caught it and went up for a dunk.

"The reason why that play might not have been there earlier in the season is that everybody would have been clogging up the lane," Bryant

said. "Our spacing wouldn't have been good."

On a night when Walton finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds, back to playing the game instead of drowning in his thoughts about it, that might have been the biggest play of all.

Bryant finished with 29 points despite missing his first seven shots of the second half.

Then there was Kwame Brown, who played the entire fourth quarter, finished with 10 points and eight rebounds, and limited Tim Duncan to 12 points, four rebounds and three turnovers.

In Miami, Jason Richardson nailed a career-high 44 points as the Golden State Warriors upset the Heat, 111-106, snapping their 10-game winning streak.

Richardson's career night overshadowed a 42-point performance from the Heat's Dwyane Wade.

In Toronto, Andre Miller had 23 points as the Denver Nuggets dumped the Raptors, 108-97, extending their winning run to four.

Reggie Evans had 20 rebounds without scoring a point, the first time such a feat was accomplished since Chicago's Dennis Rodman pulled it off against Phoenix on December 15, 1997. NYTNS, Reuters



BRYANT: Hero's role. REUTERS

Early run has Tiger delighted

LOS ANGELES—ALTHOUGH TIGER WOODS has major acquisitions on his shopping list for later this year, he is delighted with his early-season return.

Three wins in his first five tournaments, a new five-wood in his bag, a Border Collie dog from his wife and a new Florida property have given the world No. 1 ample reason to smile.

On top of that, the hard work he has put into his swing with coach Hank Haney over the last two years has born fruit and the game's leading player is excited he can now make adjustments during tournament rounds.

"I hoped to get off to a fast start this year, and that's exactly what has happened," American Woods said in his monthly newsletter on Friday. "I've won three times in five starts, which isn't too bad considering all the time I took off during the Christmas holidays."

Woods, who won six PGA Tour titles last year including the US Masters and British Open, felt he needed to take an extended break before this season to recharge his batteries.

He did not touch a club for 24 days, his longest spell away from the game without being sidelined through injury.

"Basically, I'm continuing to refine things that Hank Haney and I have been working on for nearly two years," added Woods, who won the Buick Invitational in San Diego in January, the Dubai Desert Classic the following week and the Doral Championship in Miami on Sunday.

"The neat part is that now I am able to fix my swing faults when I'm out there playing." Reuters

Kwame's still learning, says Jackson

SAN ANTONIO—KWAME BROWN TURNED 24 on Friday, young by one NBA standard, old by another, and didn't hesitate when asked which he felt more like on his birthday.

"Young bull," Brown said.

If Brown had gone to college for four years, like players of a previous era, he would be a rookie in the league right now. Instead, Brown turned pro out of high school, was the No. 1 overall pick, and is nearing the conclusion of his fifth season.

As hard as progress has been to measure with Brown, who is averaging 5.9 points and 5.8 rebounds in his first season with the Lakers, Phil Jackson did not seem to think he is anything close to a fully formed player.

"He's just a learner," Jackson said. "He's in his learner phase. We marvel sometimes at his game. He plays great at moments. At other moments, he'll miss a shot you'd think that no one could miss."

"He has great reactions at times, but at other times he looks like he's nailed to the floor. It's a consistency that we're looking for out of his performance. But we know that the ingredients are there, that he likes to play, that he likes basketball."

Jackson added that he doesn't expect Brown to have a breakthrough moment on the court, rather a gradual process of getting better.

"I don't think it's going to be an overnight sensation, the angel is going to strike him and

he's going to suddenly be doing things that make all the difference in the world," Jackson said.

Jackson's biggest challenge seems to be building Brown's confidence and easing the anxiety with which the 6-foot-11 big man plays the game.

As for being a better practice than game player, Jackson said of Brown: "He still finds a way to miss some shots that are impossible to miss at 11 o'clock."

● NBA on TV: SOLAR SPORTS—Dallas vs Utah (10 a.m. live, 7 p.m. replay); RPN-9—Dallas vs Utah (10 a.m. live), Minnesota vs Phoenix (9 p.m. delayed telecast)

Federer on Nadal: Too early to call him a rival

INDIAN WELLS—WORLD NO. 1 ROGER FEDERER said it was too early to tell whether he and Rafael Nadal will establish a major rivalry.

Spanish teenager Nadal broke Federer's 56-match hard court winning streak with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in Dubai last Sunday and boasts a 3-1 record against the Swiss. But Federer said the competition was too fierce to develop a rivalry in the fashion of Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

"I've played him only four times and obviously we are No. 1 and No. 2, but we'll have to

see how it progresses," said Federer, the top seed at this week's Pacific Life Open.

"There are more players than just Nadal. The other players will play well here too at Indian Wells."

"I don't think we can call it a rivalry yet. There's just too many great players around."

But eight-times grand slam champion Agassi thinks the pairing has the makings of a classic and said that the left-handed Nadal, who is seeded second at Indian Wells, has the game to challenge Federer.

"I think it would be impossible for anybody to dominate in the past two years the way Roger did," Agassi said.

"It's great to see that the one person that closes to him in the rankings is his most difficult matchup. Nadal can hit that one shot that everybody wishes they can hit against Roger and that's getting the ball up to his backhand side."

Swiss Federer believes the more he plays the Spaniard, the more success he'll have against him. Reuters



FEDERER

Hingis keeps pace with Davenport, Sharapova



HINGIS: First return to US turns out fine.

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA—Lindsay Davenport won her opening match Friday in the Pacific Life Open and Maria Sharapova and Martina Hingis joined her in the third round of the rain-delayed tournament.

Sharapova, the No. 3 seed, beat Jamea Jackson of the United States, 6-4, 6-3, and Hingis, making a comeback after three years in retirement, was a 6-1, 6-3 winner over Camille Pin of France.

Hingis, seeded 19th, is a possible fourth-round opponent for No. 2 seed Davenport.

Sharapova and Davenport could meet in a rematch of last year's semifinal that Davenport won, 6-0, 6-0.

Davenport, 29, finished her match early in the afternoon by beating fellow

American Ashley Harkleroad, 6-0, 6-0, before rain forced a 3-hour, 41 minute delay of the men's first-round and women's second-round matches.

"It's fantastic when you're done (and) you're watching everyone else in the locker room sweat it out, but it's very tough when rain interrupts play," Davenport said. "A lot of time it can change the momentum. Players get stiff, you're always unsure of when it will stop. And I think certain players are personally unprepared for it at certain venues. At Wimbledon, you're always looking up, like, 'OK, one more game.' I don't think anyone would have expected a long rain delay here in the desert."

Davenport won 62 of the 95 points played in her 53 minute match against

Harkleroad

Davenport wasn't the only one fortunate enough to beat the rain. Seventh-seeded Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany and No. 27 Marta Domachowska of Poland also advanced to the third round.

But Sybille Bammer of Austria upset No. 15 seed Jelena Jankovic of Serbia-Montenegro 7-5, 6-4 and Meng Yuan of China was a 7-6 (5), 6-2 winner over No. 23 seed Catalina Castano of Colombia.

In early men's first-round matches, Paul Goldstein and Sam Querrey of the United States, Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, Florian Mayer and Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany, Jan Hernych of the Czech Republic and Robin Soderling of Sweden all won. AP

HUIXQUILUCAN, MEXICO—ANNIKA SORENSTAM shot a 5-under 67 in her first competitive round of the year Friday to finish tied for the lead with Italy's Silvia Cavalleri in the MasterCard Classic.

The world's top-ranked women's golfer stayed consistent, hitting fairways and reaching greens easily before sinking a 7-foot putt on the par-5 No. 18 for her fifth birdie.

Sorenstam, who sat out the first two tournaments of the season in Hawaii last month, also made her 2005 debut here, winning the 54-hole event outside of Mexico City—the first US LPGA tour stop south of the border in three decades.

"I felt, I wouldn't say pressure, but I wanted to perform because I've felt like I've had a good practice session the last two weeks and I felt really good about my game," said the 35-year-old Swede, who has 10 titles to defend this year. "I could not have asked for a better day."

Cavalleri began on the back nine and sunk a nearly 40 foot putt for birdie on No. 17 before going uphill to hole out from 15 feet on the third hole. She had seven birdies, offsetting two bogeys, one of which saw her miss a 4-foot putt.

"I putted very well. It was just a steady round apart from two bogeys in the last five holes," said the 33-year-old, who is seeking her first tour win.

Norway's Suzann Pettersen, limited to just nine tournaments last year because of a back injury, was in third place after the opening round, at 4-under. She had three birdies in a row from holes No. 5 through 7, finishing with a total of six to go with a pair of bogeys. Three players were tied for fourth at 3-under.

Light morning winds picked up to 10-15 mph with 20 mph gusts after midday. Sorenstam said she had to adjust.

"I was trying to play the ball a little lower, maybe get another club and not swing so hard," she said. "I didn't want the ball to climb so I could control it a little bit more."

On a hill in Huixquilucan, which overlooks Mexico City's smog-shrouded outskirts, Bosque Real Country Club is even higher than the capital's 7,400-foot altitude. AP



By Marine R. Cruz

"I HAVE NO INTENTION OF breaking up their love team. It's just work. It's a company decision to put me in that role and Karylle in the other."

Iza Calzado was addressing fans of Karylle and Dingdong Dantes who reportedly don't approve of the three actors' designations in GMA Films' "Moments of Love."

Dingdong, Karylle's real-life sweetheart, plays the object of Iza's affections in the film directed by Mark Reyes ("Mulawin: The Movie").

"Karylle and I discussed this," Iza said. "I think it's just a normal fan reaction. They adore Karylle and Dingdong and I respect that."

Karylle agreed. "There's no reason to get angry. Whenever our fans react negatively to anything, I ask them to stop. *Kung ako nga hindi nagagalit*."

The fans' negative comments were posted on various Internet sites, Karylle said. This prompted Dingdong to personally talk with some of them. "He told them that we're very proud of this movie."

INQUIRER Entertainment recently sat with Karylle and Iza. The actresses shared their thoughts on their roles, as well as their goals, and hopes for the movie industry.

Tell us something about your characters in this film.

Iza: Divina is an artist and a musician. Her dream is to study Fine Arts in Manila. She's a very obedient daughter. So when she was told that the family is at the risk of losing its hacienda, she decided to help. The story is set in 1957, when women practically had no right to speak their minds. Divina is married off to a rich scion. He turns out to be a jerk. Then she meets Marco (Dingdong) and the conflict begins.

Karylle: Lianne loves her grand

mother more than her mom. Her grandma invites her to take a vacation in the province. This is set in the present time. Lianne has an accident and meets Dingdong's character. They feel as if they've known each other for a long time. They begin to ask, "How can two people from different times meet and fall in love?"

What are your expectations for this film?

Iza: I think the main reason that GMA 7 is doing this is that if this makes money, we can produce more films. The industry will be re-suscitated. There's so much talent in this country. Successful Filipinos are everywhere—Cheryl Burke, Sugababes, Pussycat Dolls, Black Eyed Peas. There are other Filipinos out there, *pero harap sila makakuha ng work. Alanganin sila for Spanish (roles) pero 'di naman pwedeng Chinese*. As soon as the world embraces brown culture, we'll find our place.

Karylle: Korean and Taiwanese actors are popular here. Why can't Filipino actors be the same abroad? This is one of the reasons I accepted this project. GMA 7 has such high hopes for it.

What do you wish for yourself?

Karylle: I want to win an acting award. I remember when my mom won Best Actress (for "Ako Legal Wife" during the Metro Manila Film Festival in December), a lot of people congratulated me. Ang sarap pala ng feeling. I was so happy even if I didn't win.

Iza: If I win an acting award for this film, I think it will be just icing on the cake. I enjoyed doing "Moments." I got goose bumps while dubbing. It's interesting how the movie connects past and present events.

Do you have dream roles?

Karylle: I'd like to do an action film. *Ang tingin sa akin ng mga tao, mahuhikn ako*, even though I do a

MOMENTS/A2-2

FAP goes digital ... and to the HK Filmart

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE FILM ACADEMY of the Philippines is now reviewing independent and digital movies as nominees to this year's Luna Awards, which will be presented in May or June.

This was confirmed by John Suarez, FAP executive secretary, and Leo Martinez, FAP director general.

"For as long as the digital film has been commercially exhibited,

it can compete," Suarez said.

In the lineup are the following digital films that were blown up to 35mm and have had theatrical runs: "Mga Pusang Gala," "Masahista" and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Also qualified are digital movies "Boso," "Ilusyon" and other Cinemalaya and Cinemanila film festival entries that had "limited" commercial runs, said Suarez.

FAP/A2-2

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Moments with Iza & Karylle

From page A2-1

lot of action scenes in "Encantadia." It's funny, when I'm bored with my stunts, the stunt choreographers would tell me, "Para kay

lolo." (Boxing referee Carlos Padilla is the father of Karylle's mom, singer-actress Zsa Zsa.) I tell them, "Dapat tama ang suntok ko dahil

mapapanood n'ya ako sa States." Lolo records all "Encantadia" episodes. He might call me about my punches. I want to be like Jenny Garner, Jessica Alba or Charlize Theron.

Iza: I don't have one dream role. But I'm thankful because all the characters I loved when I was growing up, I have portrayed. I loved Cinderella. The soap series

"Te Amo" had a Cinderella-like plot. I always wanted to be an enchantress, like Maria Makiling. I am one in "Encantadia." My role in "Milan" was also good for me. (Iza won an Urian Best Supporting Actress trophy for her work in the Olive Lamasan movie) I like off-beat roles. I want to do a gangster role, and a *baliw* character.

Who do you get acting tips from?

Karylle: My mom is very encouraging. *Madam! syang bini* gay na tips along the way. She's also my exercise trainer (laughs). We went to the gym once. The trainers there said to me, "Ang strict namang trainer mo." Mama wanted me to do the most difficult ab routine. She would tell me, "Stop! You're cheating! You're cheating!"

Iza: In the beginning, Sunshine Dizon played a big part in my becoming an actress. We've worked with each other in "Kung Mawawala Ka." She once told me, "Focus ka lang." I kept that in mind. You see, when I talk to people, I ask questions, I listen and I try to remember. Our director, Joel Lamanagan, helps me out, too. I will never forget when Direk Joel told me once, "Phoebe, feel the scene." My jaw dropped. I didn't know what he meant. I also worked with Direk Roque Gallaga in "Pinoy Blonde" and I learned a lot from him. That's why I decided that I'd like to take acting lessons from him.



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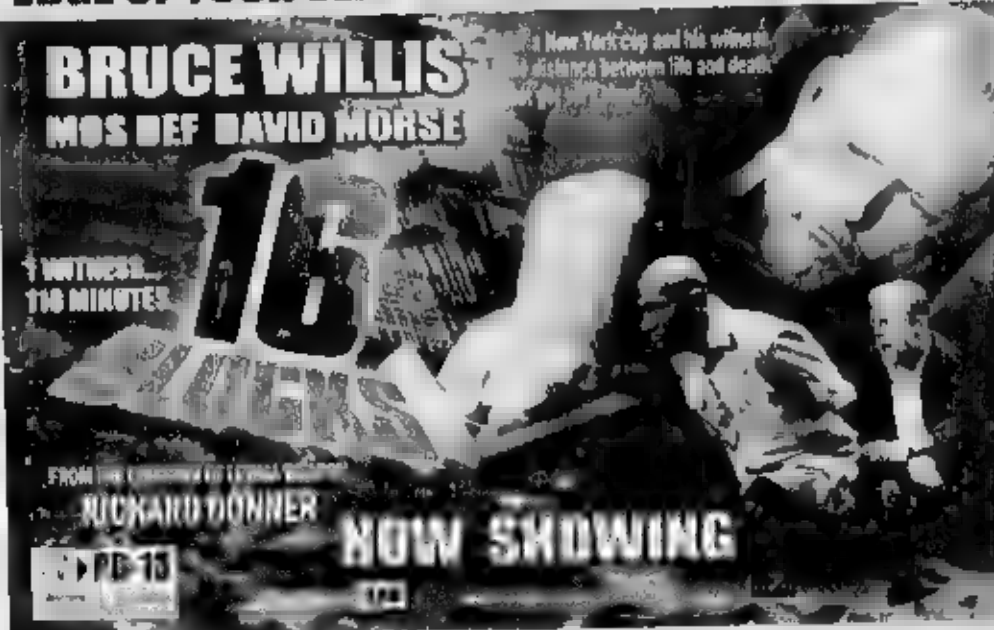
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What other projects are you busy with right now?

Karylle: I want to promote my album. I've been so busy with "Encantadia" that I didn't get the chance to promote it. We end taping by April. I'd like to go full blast with my singing then. I hope to set up an all-female band. Ria Villena is my musical director.

Jza: I'm set to do something for Unitel Pictures. It's a digital horror film. I can't talk much about it at this time.

"Moments of Love" will be shown in theaters nationwide starting March 29.

FAP goes digital...

From page A2-1

According to Ronald Arguilles, Cinema One Originals project head, "The two-day Cinema One digital festival held at SM Megamall last year allowed our films to be qualified in the 'Uman, Star and Golden Screen WeL' also submit our films to the FAP."

"In the coming week, we will announce the citations," said Martinez. "So far, we've reviewed 60 movies, which we will narrow down to 10 or 15."

RP booth

Meanwhile, the FAP will be putting up a Philippine booth at the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market, running from March 20 to 23 at the HK Convention and Exhibition Center in Wanchai.

It is the country's first time to participate in the event that attracted exhibitors from 23 countries and buyers from 40 countries last year.

"Close to 3,000 visitors attended the HK Filmmart last year," Suarez said.

This year, the Philippine booth will feature as part of the official delegation. Regal Entertainment (Regal-Films, MaQ, Good Harvest and Regal Multi-Media), GMA Films and Imus Productions, Star Cinema and Octoarts/Canary declined because most of their products have already been sold, said Suarez.

Opportunity

Unitel ("La Visa Loca") and Gee Entertainment ("Masahista") will set up their own booths at the Filmmart. Unitel has participated at the Cannes and American Film Markets in previous years.

"The invitation for the HK Filmmart was coursed through Wilson Tieng, president of the Movie Producers Distributors Association of the Philippines," Suarez said. "Since we believe in the project's merits, we pursued it and asked assistance from the Film Development Council of the Philippines, which will shoulder the booth's cost (\$2,800)."

The HK Filmmart presents an opportunity for local producers to sell their movies to 350 registered buyers that can offer theatrical, home video and TV (free and cable) sales.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION **MOVIE GUIDE** **NOW SHOWING**

CINEMAPLEX		Filinvest		CINEMAS	
New Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Telephone: 633-2277 / 633-7831 (loc. 17)		(Muntinlupa) tel: 850-3571 or 72		(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City) tel: 687-4963 or 72	
10:00am	YOURS, MINE & OURS GP	1:00pm	THE DARK	1:00pm	CASANOVA
2:00pm	16 BLOCKS PG13	2:00pm	FINAL DESTINATION-3	2:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
3:00pm	DATE MOVIE R18	4:00pm	UNDERCLASS MAN / BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE	3:00pm	16 BLOCKS
4:00pm	CASANOVA R18	5:00pm	DATE MOVIE	4:00pm	LAST HOLIDAY
PREMIERE		6:00pm	YOUR'S MINE & OURS		
5:00pm	LAST HOLIDAY R13	7:00pm	CASANOVA		
		8:00pm	FEARLESS		
		9:00pm	CLOSE TO YOU		
		10:00pm	THE LAST HOLIDAY / TIGER BLADE		

CINEMA 2000		Blue Wave		Cinema 2000	
Walmart Center, China Rises Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pda del Pilar, Makati City. Tel: 816-4214 / 816-4216		Sarangay Highway cor. Mayor Gil Cervantes Street, Sta. Vito, Marikina City tel: 934-1927		(Bancal) tel: (049) 545-7383	
1:00pm	16 BLOCKS	1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS	1:00pm	DATE MOVIE
2:00pm	FEARLESS - PG13	2:00pm	DATE MOVIE	2:00pm	BLOODRAYNE
3:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS - GP	3:00pm	16 BLOCKS	3:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS
4:00pm	DATE MOVIE - R18	4:00pm	RESERVED	4:00pm	FEARLESS

starmall		Mandayong		Cinema 2000	
(Mandaluyong) tel: 7286160		tel: 533-3851 / 533-3855		(Tarlac) tel: (045) 982-1729	
1:00pm	FEARLESS	1:00pm	PINK PANTHER	1:00pm	CLOSE TO YOU
2:00pm	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION	2:00pm	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE-2	2:00pm	ST. ANGE
3:00pm	16 BLOCKS	3:00pm	SNEAK CHARMER	3:00pm	NEW WORLD
4:00pm	16 BLOCKS	4:00pm	RESERVED	4:00pm	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

metropolis		Maragana		Cinema 2000	
www.theatercity.com.ph		(Pasay) tel: 833-3290 / 833-3274		(Pamuk) tel: (049) 795-3220	
1:00pm	TIGER BLADE	1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS	1:00pm	AEON FLUX
2:00pm	16 BLOCKS	2:00pm	FEARLESS	2:00pm	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3:00pm	CASANOVA	3:00pm	TIGER BLADE	3:00pm	
4:00pm	FEARLESS	4:00pm		4:00pm	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULES / PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA		632-8110	
1 CASANOVA THX	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
2 DATE MOVIE	11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45	7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
3 16 BLOCKS	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	8 UNDERCLASS MAN	1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
4 KEYS TO THE HOUSE	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 THE DARK	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 LAST HOLIDAY	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 FEARLESS	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA		632-8183 • 632-8189	
1 16 BLOCKS	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 LAST HOLIDAY	1:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 DATE MOVIE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
3 UNDERCLASS MAN	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 FEARLESS	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 THE DARK	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50		

METRO EAST		636-5221 / 636-5228-30	
1 LAST HOLIDAY	1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05	5 FEARLESS	12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 9:00
2 CASANOVA	12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 9:00	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
3 DATE MOVIE	11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:15	7 16 BLOCKS	11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 UNDERCLASS MAN	12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00	8 THE DARK	11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES		636-5221 / 636-5228-30	
1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS		4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	
2 DATE MOVIE		5 16 BLOCKS	
3 CASANOVA		6 UNDERCLASS MAN	

GITISQUARE MALABON		PIONEER	
1 BLOODRAYNE		1 16 BLOCKS	
2 DATE MOVIE		2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	
3 RESERVE		3 DATE MOVIE	
4 RESERVE		4 THE DARK	

exclusive screening
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
A FATHER AND SON LOVE STORY EVERY MOTHER WOULD DIE FOR.

The film is a touching story of a young father forging a relationship with his handicapped son, whom he meets for the first time as a teenager. Having suffered a traumatic birth, Paolo is disabled both physically and psychologically and must travel to a special hospital in Berlin for rehabilitation. Gianni, who accompanies the boy in hopes of getting to know his estranged son, meets Nicola, a strong woman dedicating herself entirely to the care of her handicapped daughter. Through their conversations, Paolo helps Gianni come to terms with the guilt of having abandoned Paolo. This revelation results in an unexpected and fragile happiness between a father and a son discovering each other and themselves in a place far from home.

Open on March 9
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
MOVIE SCHEDULES: 6:30pm or 8:30pm
CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or 635-5556
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA. ROSA		LIPA	
(049) 837-0807		(043) 757-3864	
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3		1 FEARLESS	
2 MURDER		2 NASAAN SI FRANCIS	
3 YOURS, MINE AND OURS		3 PINK PANTHER	
4 DATE MOVIE		4 NEW WORLD	
5 FEARLESS			

DASMARINAS		ANGELES	
(049) 952-2125		(045) 882-2348	
1 YOURS, MINE AND OURS		1 BLOODRAYNE	
2 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE		2 DATE MOVIE	
3 SYRIANA		3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	
4 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?		4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	
5 16 BLOCKS			

IMUS		STARMILLS	
(049) 875-3838		(045) 275-1937	
(049) 471-8106		(045) 981-5270	
1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE		1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE	
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS		2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	
3 DATE MOVIE		3 DATE MOVIE	
4 16 BLOCKS		4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	
		5 FEARLESS	
		6 FINAL DESTINATION 3	

BACOLOD		ILOILO	
(033) 536-0070		(033) 536-0070	
1 AEON FLUX		1 FEARLESS	
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2		2 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?	
3 UNDERWORLD 2		3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	
4 FEARLESS		4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS	
5 YOURS, MINE AND OURS		5 MURDER	
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS?		6 NEW WORLD	

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RYAN Cayabyab

Celebs 'speak in tongues'

CELEBRITIES READ, SANG AND acted out verses in an evening of music and poetry titled "To Speak in Tongues/In Focus: Marra PL Lanot," at the Newsdesk in Quezon City.

Sponsored by Butterflyeffect Inc., the two-part event was held on Feb. 25 and March 4 as an observance of Women's Month (March) and International Women's Day (March 8). It was also in line with Butterflyeffect's advocacy to promote awareness and appreciation of Philippine literature.

Interpreters of Lanot's poems, which are originally written in Filipino, English, and Spanish, were "bagets" Kojih Lanot, Christel

Reyes, Louie Barretto, Bethany Lacad, Nadja Lacad, and Nina Lacad; poets Joi Barrios, Rebecca Añonuevo Marne Kilates, Alma Anonas, and Benilda Santos; journalist Sheila Coronel; advertising guru Emily Abrera; political leader Risa Hontiveros; Spanish teacher Maita Ventanilla; writer-dancer Nanette Matilac; actors Ronnie Lazaro, Roence Santos, Peejay Lanot, Soliman Cruz, Shamaine Centenera, and Jaime Fabregas; and singer-composers Isha, Girl Valencia, Cooky Chua with Color It Red, and Cynthia Alexander, as well as Miriam San Miguel, Frances Fernandez, and Gerry Otaguer of Ryan Cayabyab Music Studio.



CLOCKWISE from left: Cooky Chua, Jaime Fabregas and Isha

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 Tutok lang sa Lagot Ka! every Monday. Answer the Buddy Game Trivia and Dream Weekly Trivia to get a chance to win up to P50,000!

ROUNDUP



CARMi Martin



MARICEL Laxa

700 Club special

Actors Christopher de Leon and Maricel Laxa, broadcaster Karen Davila, sportscaster Dyan Castillejo and singer Isabella are only some of the celebrities on ABS-CBN and 700 Club Asia's TV special on March 13-15, after "Pinoy Big Brother Up Late."

"Prayerthon" aims to rally as many Filipinos as possible from all over the world to join hands in prayer for the country's concerns.

Televiewers will be called upon to pray and fast for the Philippines. Through The Filipino Channel (TFC), the special will reach Pinoy in North America and Europe.

Joining The 700 Club Asia host Peter Kanuz are Rio Locsin, Pinky de Leon, Cirio Beltran, Isay Alvarez, Carmi Martin, Isabel Rivas, Audie Gemora, Felchu Pangilinan-Buizon, Joaquin Valdes and many others.

Singing for Gaia

"Martin Sings for Gaia" features Martin Nievera and Louie Ocampo at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula on March 29 at 8 p.m.



The concert aims to raise funds for a liver transplant for 9-month-old Gaia Bianca Pasamba.

Barely two months after her birth on June 7 last year, Gaia was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia, a serious disease that strikes infants and which results in the inflammation and obstruction of the ducts that carry bile from the liver to the intestines and causes severe liver damage.

"Martin sings for Gaia" is a joint production of The Manila Peninsula and Big Mouth International. Call 8299514. More information about Gaia is available via www.gaia-bianca.com.

Y Speak at the prom

Would school life be complete without the prom? Would you go to the prom without a date? Check out what today's youth has to say about the JS prom tonight at 7 p.m. on "Y Speak" on Studio 23.

The special prom episode is hosted by real-life sweethearts Ryan Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos, with guests Mylene Dizon and Pao P. Paraiso, China Cojuangco and Lui Villaruz.



Artist of the month

Orange and Lemons is MTV's Loka. Artist for March. The band was featured on "MTV Handpicked" on March 5 (replays on March 19, 10 a.m. and March 23, 9:30 a.m.).

"MTV Sessions" will also star the group today at 10 a.m. Replays are on March 14, 10 p.m., March 16, 9:30 p.m., March 22, 3 p.m., March 26, 10 a.m., March 28, 10 p.m., March 29, 10 p.m., and March 30, 9:30 a.m.

Orange and Lemons is also nominated in the 2006 MTV Asia Awards' Favorite Artist- (Philippines) category.

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer.ent.name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Sentimental & Crystal-clear

LOS ANGELES—HOW MANY PEOPLE can claim that they saw their first movie as a kid with the late great jazz singer Billie Holiday?

Billy Crystal can.

Not only did he watch a western with the music legend, he also sat on her lap. This is one of the revelations in Billy Crystal's autobiographical one-man show,

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

"700 Sundays," which we caught on its LA stop at the Wilshire Theatre in Beverly Hills. The title of the 2005 Tony Award winner for Best Theatrical Event is derived from the number of Sundays that the actor-comedian-director got to spend with his father before he died of a

heart attack. Only 15 at the time, Billy recalls this sad chapter in his life.

At the same time, he celebrates the resilience and inspiration of his mother who overcame the tragic loss and raised Billy and his two brothers by herself.

Billy's Uncle Milt Gabler (who helped raise the budding entertainer when his father died) founded Commodore Records and later Decca Records, both of which recorded many of the finest jazz and rock and roll artists in the 1950s and 1960s, from Billie Holiday's classic "Strange Fruit" to Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock." His father Jack, as manager of Commodore's record store in New York, worked long hours so Sunday was the only time he got to spend with his family. With his father and uncle in the music business, Billy grew up in a house where Holiday, Louis Armstrong and other music giants often dropped by and jammed.

Originally a book, "700 Sundays" is a touching, funny and Crystal-clear revisiting by Billy of his formative years. It is funniest when the comedian plays some of his relatives, especially his "gassy" grandpa Julius.

In person, Billy, like most comedians, is not a laugh-a-minute interview subject. From our experience, Robin Williams and a few others are the only comics who seem to be "on" all the time. Billy was gracious enough to accommodate our press group's request for an interview, held at the Beverly Hills Hotel's Private Polo Room, even in the middle of his show's run. "700 Sundays" recently ended its LA engagement and will resume its road tour in London later this year.

Billy, one of the Oscars' best hosts ever, is turning 59 (he looks much younger) this Tuesday, March 14. He and his wife of over 30 years, Janice, have two daughters, Jennifer and Lindsay, who are actresses.

How comfortable are your relatives about having their life discussed onstage?

I have been talking about this with them for so many years. They trust me. Telling the public about our lives is something that I earned a long time ago. They are fond remembrances. Some are sketched and colored in a special way for humor's sake. My brothers and I share in the thrill of the show's success, and not only in the way it has been received on Broadway and around the country. What is more gratifying is that people take the show home with them. They take it to heart and they think about their own families when they leave the theater. That's the great gift of the show for me. That's why I keep doing it.

As a father, how do you make sure that you get to spend more than 700 Sundays with your daughters?

Janice and I made a conscious decision when I was going out on the road a lot, before the movies started to happen. I cut back on being on the road. I was very selective in what I was doing so I wouldn't become Uncle Daddy. Even though I've lived my life in public, the kids had a very normal upbringing. One of our great triumphs as a couple is the fact that our kids are as great and as normal as they are.

You talk about your wonderful relationship with your mother, Helen, in this show. How influential was she in your life?

Oh, she was a very strong influence. My mother had a tough job. She held us all together. When you get spun out of your orbit and when you have a loss like that, she was so strong. She rarely let us see her sadness.

She just took over. She was the best and most important hero I ever knew. She greeted life always with a smile. She sang a lot. She had a great sense of humor. She could have been a great actress. I totally believe that. She was very talented that way. She always encouraged us to be ourselves and to find something that we liked to do. She said, "Don't do things that you don't enjoy doing." She didn't instill guilt trips ever. I was always in awe of her that way because life wasn't easy for her a lot of the time. She never complained about that kind of thing.

Since this show is very personal for you, you must have had several epiphanies either when you wrote the show or while you were doing it. Can you share a few?

When I hear the audience laugh, it's just the greatest feeling. That's 2,000 people. But when they're quiet, when I start describing the night my dad died, that's something I can't possibly describe to you. How powerful a feeling that is



BILLY Crystal is no joke box in person.

and how much that means to me to be able to get this stuff out night after night and be engaged in the drama of it. The other quiet moments in the show come when I talk about how my (mom's health) starts to fail. That's a feeling that you can never get from a movie. You can never get this from anything else—that interaction with the audience and the magic of being on stage.

For me, the revelation is that my life story is a gift. I'm so glad to have it, to be able to share it now. It has taken long enough at this age for me to have the strength to do it all these nights every week. But the conviction that I want to do the show helps me. I also enjoy that the show helps people. The letters I've gotten from New York can make a book of thank you's. They tell me their stories.

I have a little bit of regret that I laid off so many years of not doing it regularly but maybe that was meant to be, that this was what I was waiting to talk about. I stopped doing stand-up because I felt that I didn't have anything to say at that point. I had been on tour all the time. "You look marvelous," everyone was saying after my success on "Saturday Night Live."

I was playing in arenas, to 10,000 people who were yelling my lines back at me. It was pretty intoxicating but I wasn't getting anything out of it.

SENTIMENTAL/A3-2

'When I hear the audience laugh, it's just the greatest feeling. When I start describing the night my dad died, that's something I can't possibly describe'

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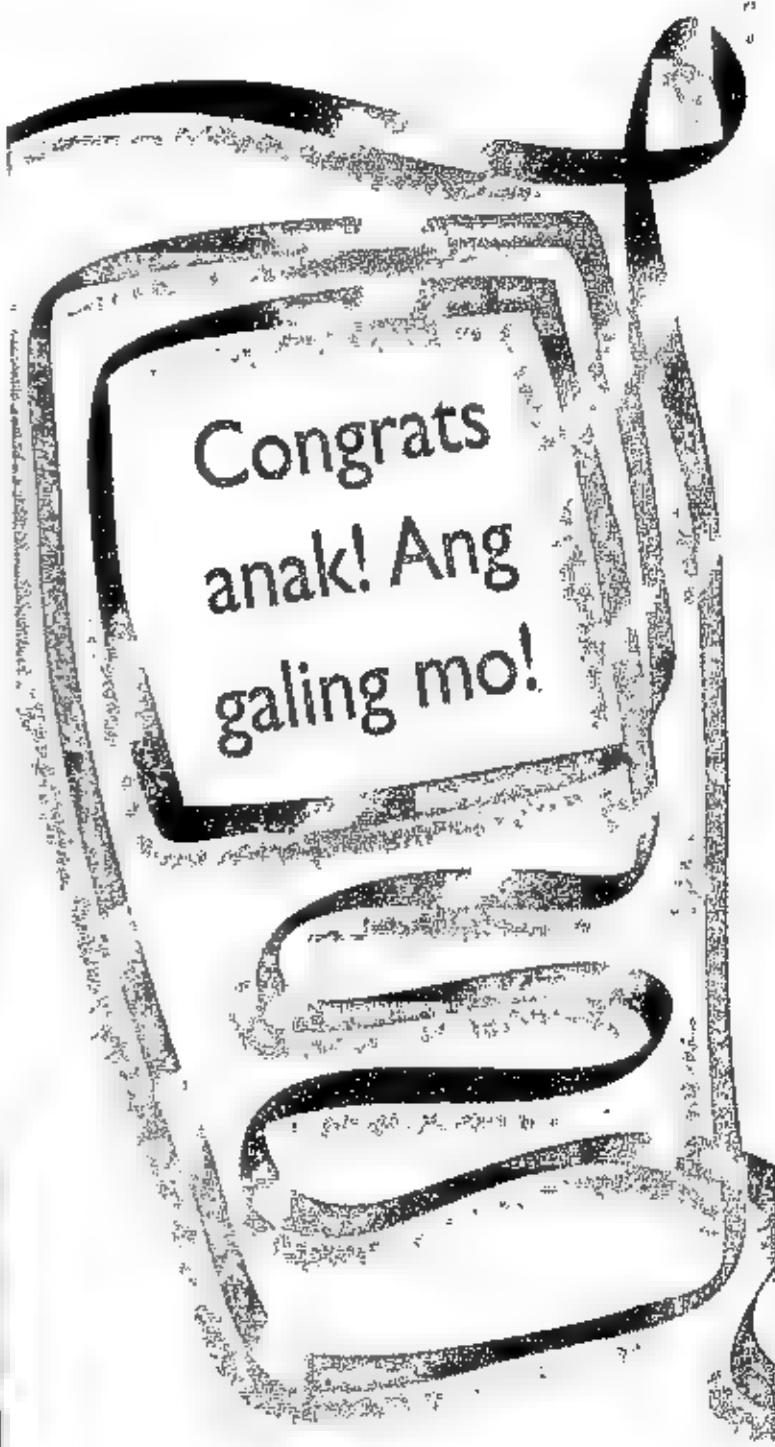
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at nairaos din namin kayo!"

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A3-2

Sentimental & Crystal-clear

From page A2-1

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AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'
IN THE U.K. THERE'S 'THE DARK'

**A GRIEF-STRIKEN FAMILY
A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE
CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL
TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY**

In an attempt to pull her family together, New
Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter
Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her
contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteri-
ously vanishes. While the parents desperately
search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted
by visions of her daughter as though she is
trapped somewhere inside the haunted house.
Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a
place called The Dark - an otherworld land of the
dead - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is
communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and
James find themselves involved with a girl who
not only bears a striking resemblance to their
missing daughter, but reveals that she has
returned from the dead to inform them on how to
get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one
of the living, for one of the dead. The living must
be sacrificed so that the dead can return.
Townfolk suspect that the Tullians are suc-
cumbing to the legacy of madness and murder
that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

**BASED ON A
TRUE INCIDENT
THAT TART INTO A
WELSH
MYTHOLOGY**

**THE
DARK**
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

On this one, every night the re-
velation is, I love doing it. I love
sharing it. I love that I can move
people.

Kurt Vonnegut came to the
show in New York—I am drop-
ping a huge name. He came
and he loved the show. He said
me about the music of the show,
saying this is like a symphony to
him. At the end he turned
around, came back and said
while pointing at me, "Border Col-
lie." I said what? He said, "You're a Border Col-
lie." I said what does that mean? He said, "You
keep barking at us and you get us all into the
corral. I've never seen anything like that." He
walked away and kept muttering "Border Col-
lie" (laughter). That to me is great—to be able to
come back to the pureness of me, alone on
stage, in the spotlight, telling stories about the
people I love. The revelation is that I can still do
it.

How and when did you find out that you have
this talent for imitating people?

Oh, I just did it. The first person I ever imitat-
ed was Sid Caesar. I have spoken to him about
images on television when I was a little kid start-
ed me going. In his TV show, "Show of Shows,"
they did a parody of "The King and I" which was



that year's Best Picture. Yul
Best Actor Sid spoofed him
in a bald wig. He wore little
and he was barefoot. He sn-
grabbed his foot and started
"Who's smoking in the palace
this was the funniest. I was
Before I'd go to bed, I'd roll
mas to just below the knee, p-
on my head, come out and
smoking?" I grabbed my
stepped on a hot cigarette
loved that I could do that. I
good ear.

For you, what are the ab-
comedy to work?

It should be something that
take home with them. My fa-
dy is the stuff that I've always
to—the kind that makes them
nod their heads. They don't
sarily have to laugh. If I see
ding, it means something to
reality-based kind of stuff. If
audience go, well, I do that
someone who does that. You
personal.

Since you grew up with ar-
produced records, you ha-
with all these jazz greats. A-
you aware of who these per-

Oh, I was aware of who they
it didn't really hit me until I
er. You go, wow, look who
Look!

We were all struck that Bi-
no less, took you to your fir-

Her impact didn't really
was a teenager. I was little, I
old. I keep in touch with the
still with us and still playing
ful to them because it was re-
view, their sense of humor
aged me to get up and perfor-
them. I was tap dancing with
joking. I was imitating them
ing that. I think that was a big
I got started in entertain-
around that element and m-
so generous in their embrac-
was never a stage mother o-
mg, "Get out there, do this
seeing us do this stuff so that
courage that we got.

Once my uncle started
these people, the house was
all the time. So there was
je—there was also Louis Ar-
all the other people that my
ed over the years. My uncle
available to us as friends. It
special, unique place to grow

How do you use your celeb-
address social or political is-

Every night when the ci-
when I walk out on stage, I
listen to myself. I quietly de-
firmly believe in. For insta-
tour, which was Toronto/B-
go/San Francisco before it
Hurricane Katrina hit right
opened in Toronto. I was sh-
the lack of support of the go-
New Orleans.

If you watched the news
was Mardi Gras time in New
six months later and the ne-
look the same as they did six
We have a President leaving
day and New Orleans is in
where's he going? India.

It doesn't matter. He's (ea-
ter). The country is in terr-
wish they would realize th-

Evoking an

From page A2-4

the movie ends on an unsat-
plausible note. Other neg-
include the American direc-
ty to convincingly and sens-
the oriental characters' si-

Mon...the film
every...the...the
Zhang as Sayuri turn in
portrayals.

All told, however, the m-
ness as...the...the
less protagonist. Thus, this
from the past (is to come

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WITH daughter, Lindsay, left, wife, Jarice, and the new famous program

rynner was appearing Capri pants. k the pose, screaming. "I thought x years old. p my paga- t a stocking go. "Who's foot like I. My family ways had a

solutes for people can orite come- s gravitated e audience even neces- them nod- them. It's a u make the o or I knew want it to be

uncle who ng around a kid, were ple were? y were. Bur as a teenag- I was with.

ie Holiday, t movie. t me until I ve, six years se who are 'm so grate- her point of at encour- n in front of them. I was 'm still do reason that gent. I was folks were of it. There father say- They loved was the en-

ording all men to them 't only Bil- strong and icie record- made them was a great, p.

ty status to ues? an [rises], at's when I things that I ce, on this ston/Chica- came here, before we cked to see ernment to

st night, it Orleans. It's neighborhoods months ago r China to- chaos. And

ng (laugh- e shape, I that great -building. It

What's the next? My latest project is a three-week-old granddaughter who I'm going to try and get to know when we close on Saturday night. I have a few things that I'm working on--another movie to direct which we're trying to cast now and a couple of other film offers have come in. I am weighing what to do. I love doing the show a great deal. We're going to take a little bit of a break. I've done 275 shows in just a little bit more than a year. I do six, sometimes eight of those a week. I am not tired of doing it. I am just tired physically.

Most likely, I'll open in London in late-September.

E-mail the columnist at rvnpeales_5585@yahoo.com.

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09:30 LMF / 11:15 END

16 BLOCKS

10:50 FS / 11:00 MF
01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18
07:24 / 09:10 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END

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07:50 / 08:24 LFS
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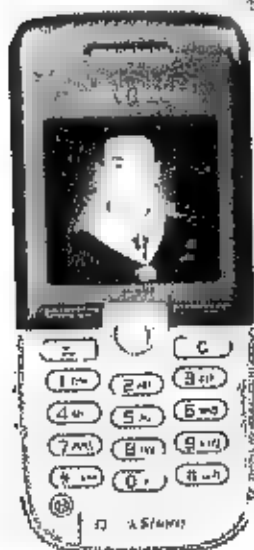


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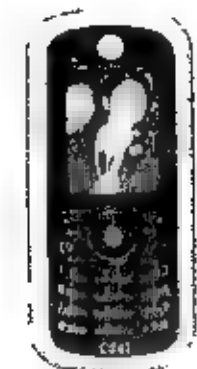
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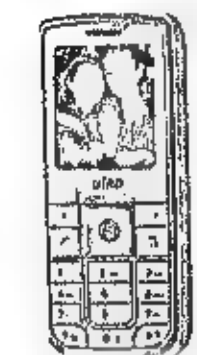


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Evoking
an exotic
time gone by

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



'MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA' IS A VISUALLY STIR-
ring evocation of an exotic time gone by in
Japan, when geishas dedicated their lives to

making the country's
most powerful men
experience the rare-
fied throes of "artis-
tic" passion.

Trained from child-
hood, only the love-
liest girls were taught
how to be pluperfect
exponents of delight
in its highest forms.
They perfected the
arts of song, music,
dance, poetry, conver-
sation and seduction,
and some of them be-
came social icons in
their own right.

But behind this
heady, glamorous
and artistic life, there
was pain, tragedy
and irretrievable
loss. Girls were
bought, separated
from their families,
and left to subsume
their grief into a
blind devotion to
their new way of life.

Perhaps worst of
all, they had to
forego the thrill of
falling in love in fa-
vor of serving as ver-
itable acolytes and
priestesses at the he-
donistic altar of love.

This conflicted
view of love is at the
core of "Memoirs of A
Geisha," which traces
the long and arduous
journey of an awk-
ward girl from an ob-
scure fishing village
all the way up to the
scented bastions of
nobility.

The basic heart-
lessness of the pro-
cess that takes cruel
possession of her
body and spirit is ren-
dered even more vi-
cious by the people
she meets, most of
whom oppress rather
than help her.

There's the famous
but aging geisha who
resents the new in-
terloper's youth. The
owner of the geisha
house who wrings as
much income as she
can out of her new
protégée. The men of
different races who
pretend to adore her,
but merely want to
possess her.

Happily, our young
geisha, who now
goes by the name of
Sayuri, has her share
of benefactors and
guardians, including
a senior geisha
(Michelle Yeoh) and
a well-born business-
man (Ken Watan-
abe).

Unknown to the
businessman, he's
the secret love of
Sayuri's life, because
he was kind to her
once, when she was
still a child. Her life
was so unhappy and
battered that this
single act of kindness
had an immense im-
pact on her emerging
view of life, and her
gratitude knows no
bounds.

Somewhere along
the way, gratitude
deepened into love,
despite the fact that
such an emotion was
forbidden to geishas.
Despite this severe
structure, Sayuri
nursed her hidden
feeling until the
movie's happy end-
ing.

This ending is too
easily achieved, so

PROBLEM CHILDREN?
THE PERSON YOU NEED IS

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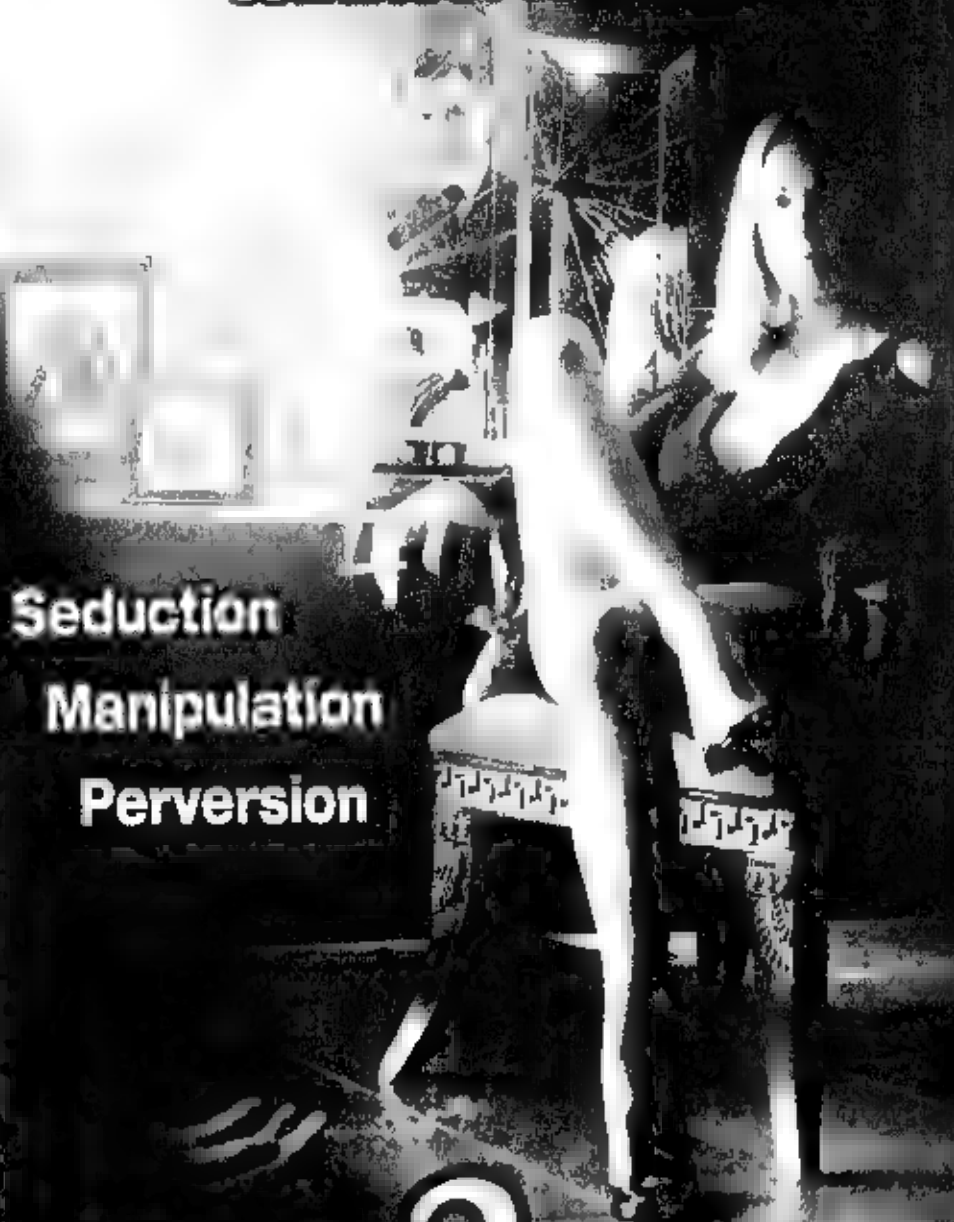
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IN THEATERS MARCH 22

OPENS MARCH 29

SHARON STONE



Seduction
Manipulation
Perversion

BASIC INSTINCT 2

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reasons

Sharon Cuneta on cooking,
dieting, her private attic
and a daughter who told
the President she doesn't
want to live in Malacañang



JIM GILAO/FUNZALAN

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

CONVERSATION
A with singer actress-TV
host Sharon Cuneta is
like jazz improvisation—it
could lead to the most unex-
pected places. This one went
from cooking to diets; from
her attic to Thailand; her
new TV show, a new acoustic
album and a repeat of her
last Valentine concert.

But if there's a recurring motif, it
would have to be her family—specifi-
cally, her kids KC, Frankie and Miel.

You still have beautiful
hands.

It's a mommy's hands
now—but a mommy who
doesn't do hard labor. He-ha-
ha! When I'm free, I bake and cook a lot.

Who's the biggest fan of your cook-
ing?

The kids. Frankie likes my pasta. My
husband Kiko [Sen. Francis Pangilinan]
loves naive dishes. He also likes my
roast beef and turkey. My brother [Cher]
is my number one fan. He says he's nev-
er had roast beef as good as mine—and
he went to school in England, ha?

I'm a foodie. I hit over 200 pounds af-

ter giving birth to Miel. It was because of
all the crash dieting I did over the years. I
also gained weight because I nursed
Miel for six months and quit smoking.
Now, I'm doing it smarter, slower.

What's the most drastic step you've
taken to lose weight?

Starvation. Now, it's safer to go
through all the medical procedures.
Which I did recently.

Do you talk about that medical proce-
dure?

I just call it a medical procedure; I
don't specify. I'm just human. I share as
much of my life as I can, but I will let
people go only so far. What could be
more private than one's own body?

TAKE
FIVE

So I'm saying I went through
it only because I want to be
honest with you. I did it to
jump-start my weight loss. At
the moment, I'm on Phase
One of the South Beach diet. I
refuse to be the poster girl for these med-
ical procedures. I don't want other wom-
en to undergo something just because I
did. What if they have a weak heart?

Share a memorable moment with
Kiko.

One inspired my first acoustic album
(under Sony-BMG). We drove to Tagay-
tay Highlands with Kiko's brothers and
their wives. We spent the night singing

songs from the 1970s with a guitarist, pi-
anist and violinist. After a while, I was
listing down nice songs for the album.

What does Kiko sing?

Anything. Please never ever hand him
a microphone at a party. He loves James
Taylor. We basically like the same songs
that we grew up on in the 1970s and
1980s.

But James Taylor songs are hard to
sing!

Well, I said he likes to sing; I didn't say
he sings well. Ha-ha-ha! When he sings,
there's no more magic in the Magic Sing!
He does that on purpose. He's so funny!

Is that ring you're wearing special?

Not really.

What does it represent?

Okay, I guess it's special, if only be-
cause when I bought it in 1989, I was
just starting to save up. That was two
years after my first marriage broke up. It
represents a time in the life of a strug-
gling young woman who's just begin-
ning to feel better about herself.

You said earlier that you've learned to
appreciate everyone in your life.

Everyone. Even those who hurt or be-
trayed me in the past. This is exactly
what I feel: I am just too happy to wish

HAPPY! A4-2

'Crash' on Lifestyle Network

THIS YEAR'S OSCAR BEST
Picture, "Crash," will pre-
miere tonight at 9 on the
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starring Sandra Bullock,
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dle, and Terrence Howard

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"Brokeback Mountain" at
the 78th Academy Awards,
and also won for Best Edit-
ing and Best Original
Screenplay.

"Crash" also won Best
Performance by an Actress

in a Supporting Role for
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Original Screenplay at the
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mance by a Cast in a Motion
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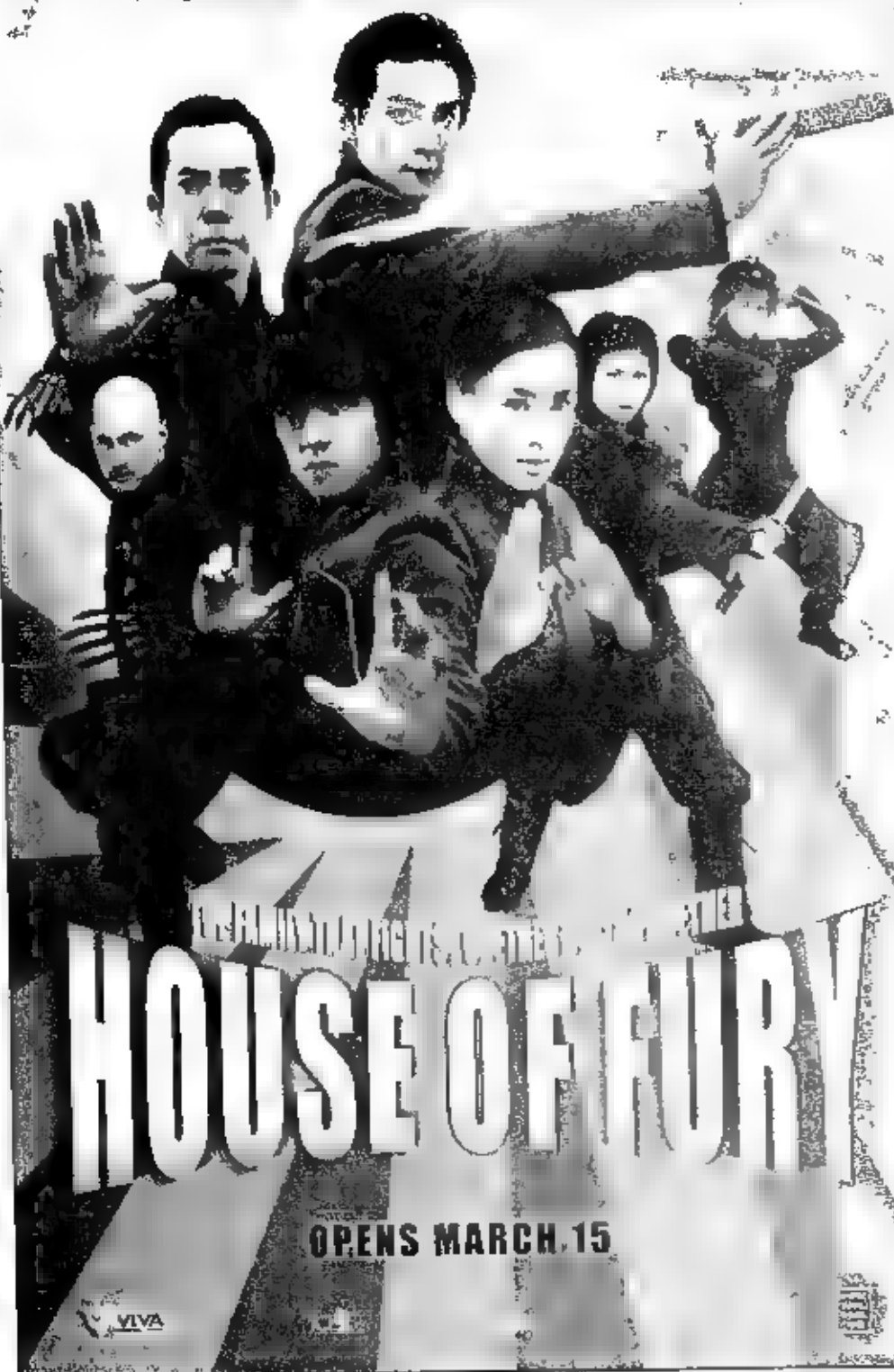
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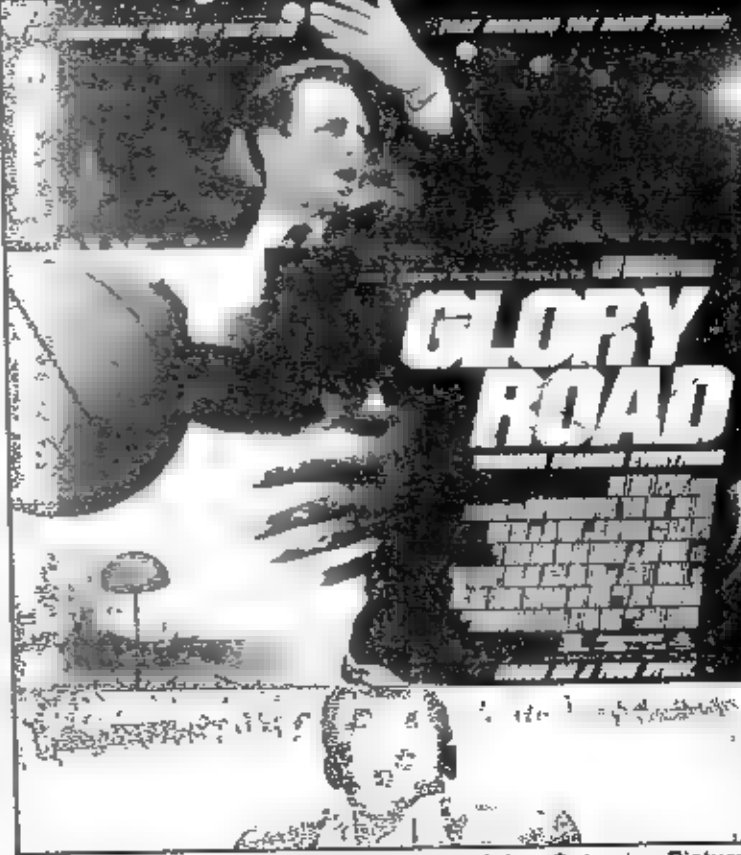
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THE REST OF HER LIFE



OPENS MARCH 22

MTRCB RATING **PG** ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

A4-2

SUNDAY,
MARCH 12, 2006



"DAD loved Kiko instantly."

Happy for the ...

From page A4-1

anyone any kind of ill. How could I, when I've reached a (stage) where I'm so peaceful, content and happy for the right reasons? I have my family, my tres Marias (her three daughters) and my husband who doesn't give me headaches.

I figure that everyone I've ever met in my life has taught me something. For example, I had a boyfriend who taught me how to sit down and calmly talk about my feelings. All relationships in your life teach you something. I think all of them prepared me for my marriage to Kiko.

Was there ever anyone who could just make you listen?

All of them naman. Especially Kiko. But the first person who could always do that was my father (the late Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta). He was a man of few words, but every single thing he taught me has stuck in my mind. He was very poetic. Once, he told me: "Ang ibong uniwanan ng kasayang ibon, di na babalikan, dumating man ang hapon." That was all he said and then he hugged me.

What did your dad say about Kiko?

Dad loved him instantly. He was immediately impressed. I think, he sensed it. My dad had so many children with so many women. He knew how to look at a man and he could tell right away if the guy was anything like him!

Did he verbalize his fondness for Kiko?

Yes. He took my side when people were criticizing Kiko at the start of our relationship. If my dad disapproved, though, he'd tell me right away. Once he said about a guy: "He's disrespecting you." He also taught me: "As soon as a man lays a hand on you, leave him. Ang tapik magiging sampal, ang sampal magiging sapak (The nudge will become a slap, the slap into a punch)."

HAPPY, A4-4

glorietta

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G4	1	CASANOVA	2	YOURS, MINE & OURS	3	16 BLOCKS	4	16 BLOCKS
GB1	1	DATE MOVIE	2	CASANOVA	3	16 BLOCKS	4	16 BLOCKS
GB3	1	DATE MOVIE	2	CASANOVA	3	16 BLOCKS	4	16 BLOCKS
ATC	1	DATE MOVIE	2	CASANOVA	3	16 BLOCKS	4	16 BLOCKS
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THE LAST HOLIDAY 50/4:20/6:50/9:20 FINAL DESTINATION 3 1:30/3:40	YOURS, MINE & OURS 12:50/3:00/5:10/7:20/9:30	DATE MOVIE 1:30/3:30/5:30/7:30/9:30	16 BLOCKS 1:40/4:10/6:40/9:10
THE FEARLESS 12:30/2:40/4:50/7:00/9:10	CASANOVA 2:00/4:30/7:00/9:30	ORO PLATA MATA 6:00 PAGDATING SA DULO 9:00	ONLY PER ADULT CLOSE PLAYSIDE FRONT SEAT

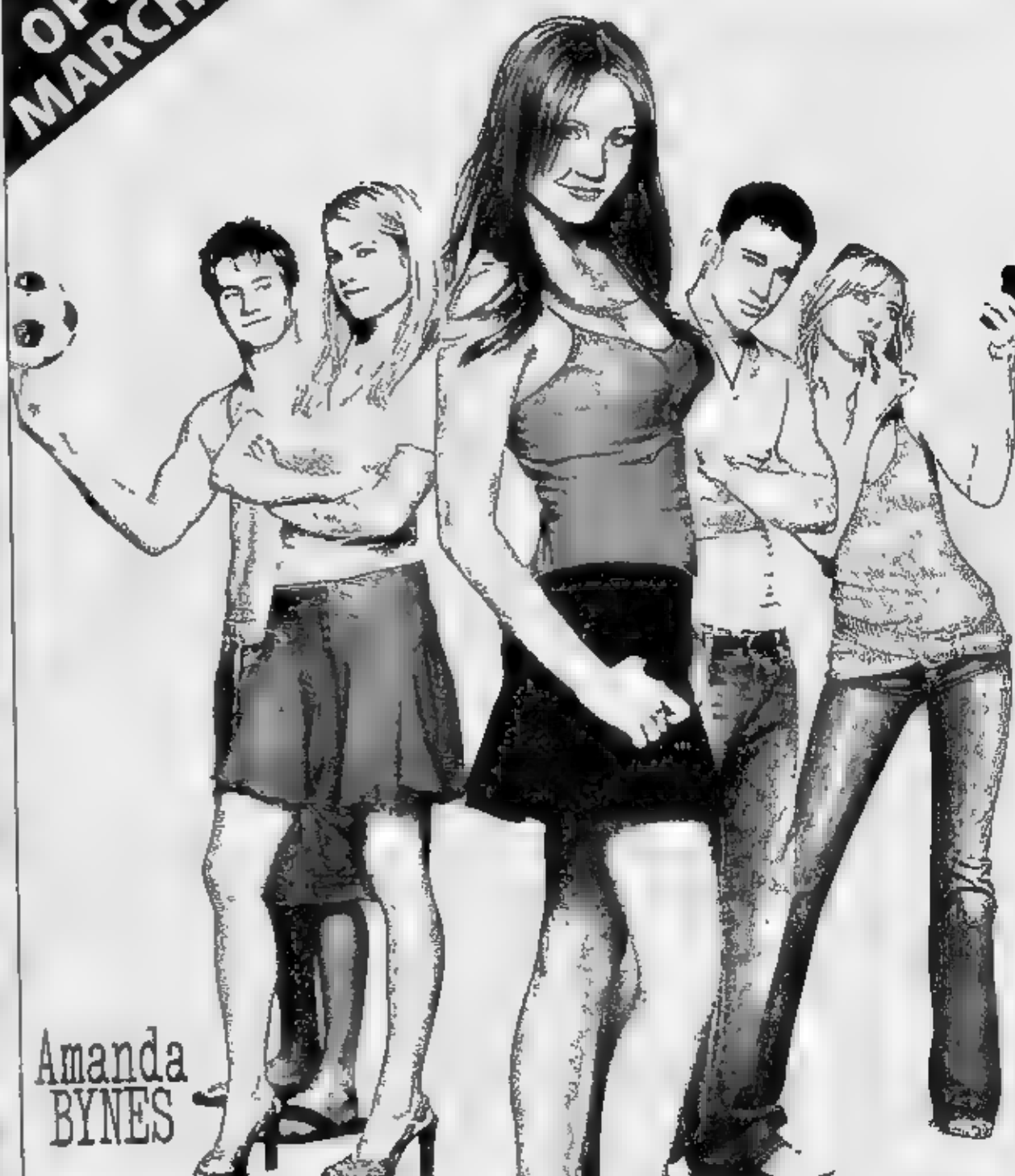
MALL CINEMAS

16 BLOCKS 12:40/3:10/5:40/8:10	THE FEARLESS 11:25/1:35/3:45/5:55/8:05	DATE MOVIE 12:30/4:30/5:30/8:30
TIGER BLADE 12:20/2:20/4:20/6:20/8:20	THE DARK 11:50/2:00/4:10/6:20/8:30	DD DIGITAL EX

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OPENS
MARCH 15

LOVE IN DISGUISE



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WHO YOU ARE?

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'I used to pray for someone I could send to school'

WHO WILL BE THIS YEAR'S STARSTRUCK ULTIMATE SURVIVORS?
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March 12, SUNDAY

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STARSTRUCK

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Watch it on GMA at 9:30 p.m.!!

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From page A4-2

Have you ever considered conducting workshops on life?

I do that on my TV show. It's because I say what I feel.

We heard there were at least two suggestions for the title of your new show (on ABS-CBN)?

It's funny. One suggestion was "Sharon on Sundays." But then I thought the acronym would be "SOS." With "Sundays With Sharon," it would be "SWS." We eventually settled on "Sharon."

Was that because with titles like "SOS" and "SWS," viewers might think it's a charity show?

It used to be so easy to help people. They're happy with a simple nebulizer, a wheelchair or a washing machine—the usual requests on the "Wish Upon a Mega" segment of (her former musical-variety program) "The Sharon Cuneta Show." Once, on my old talk show, "Sharon," we tried to help a family with a *ser-sari* store showcase. They were not satisfied; they asked for a tricycle, plus a house and lot! I cried my eyes out. My husband reminded me that I can't solve all of the world's problems. That's why now, when I help, I do it quietly. I only want to make the rest of my years in this business meaningful.

Is this the effect of your being an avid fan of the old Chichay sitcom "Ginang Milyonarya"?

I watched it a lot when I was a kid. On that TV show, Lola Chung had a trusted driver, played by Rudy Manlapaz. He would tell her about people that needed help and she would send an attaché case full of cash. But it was all kept a secret. Yes, I guess that show influenced me.

In my teens, I promised my dad that I would send two young girls to school. One took a two-year secretarial course instead of using the money for a four-year degree. The other one got pregnant by a married man. I was so disappointed, I prayed to God: All I'm asking for is to meet somebody decent that deserves to be sent to school.

Would you consider playing "Ginang Milyonarya" on TV?

I'd love to. But it would have to be written very cleverly and creatively. People need to understand that help that comes from the heart has to be accepted gracefully. If you think hard about it, though, you can't blame them. Times are so hard, that they'd grab anything. In all my 40 years, I've never seen the Philippines in a worst state. I tell Kiko: I love my country, but when push comes to shove, I'll always be a mother first and I won't hesitate to migrate if there's already chaos on the streets. He'd get so upset: "You, of all people! If everyone left, our country will have no future!"

He's the same person who says you cannot solve the world's problems!

Oh, but he also says, "Don't give up. We all have to do our share. Look at Singapore." Of course I'd tell him that we don't have anyone like Lee Kuan Yew. Or look at Thailand, you'll never meet a Thai who'd speak ill of the King. They respect their monarch. I remember when I was a child, I'd see people that he is worth their reverence and awe.

The You and me segment (from the Malapang episode)

When someone brings that up, the first thing that comes to mind is, I can't say anything about many people are in such a hurry to live their lives. I'm not happy living in the most beautiful country in the world. I'm not happy living in the most beautiful country in the world.

My house is a glamorized podaga. It's three-fourths the floor area of one level in our house. I really built it for all my *abot* (stuff) all the photos, posters, DVDs, even the standees (from my endorsements). They're all there—Superferry, pH Care, Colgate. The standees probably have a convention in the attic every night!

What was Frankie's response when President Macapagal-Arroyo asked if she wanted to live in Malapang someday?

Very innocently, she told the President. Oh no, I live in Laguna.

IN THE ACTION TRADITION OF 'HEAT'!
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KELLY CHEN, NICK CHEUNG
CHEUNG SUI FAI
Directed by JOHNNIE TO



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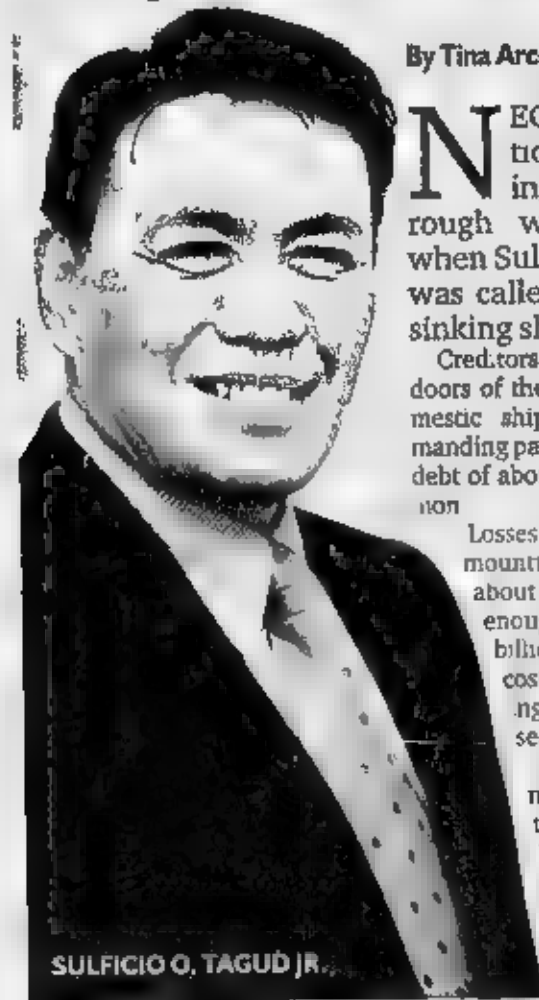


IN THEATERS MARCH 15

Sunday **BIZ**

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'If you overanalyze, you will be paralyzed'



By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NEGROS NAVIGATION Co. was sailing through very rough waters in 2004 when Sulificio O. Tagud Jr. was called in to save the sinking ship.

Creditors were pounding on doors of the country's oldest domestic shipping company, demanding payment for a combined debt of about P1.8 billion.

Losses were mounting because sales of about P2.5 billion were not enough to cover the P2.6 billion in direct operating costs, and it was fast losing the trust of the seagoing public.

Given its myriad and mounting problems that stemmed from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, most executives would not have touched Nenaco with a ten-foot pole. But not Tagud.

Tagud has never run away from a challenge, and the prospect of turning around a revered name in the shipping industry was too hard to resist.

Thus, he took over the helm of the company starting March 2004 as the appointed receiver by the court, which granted Nenaco's petition for protection from its creditors to give it time and resources needed to get back on its feet.

With the legal issues sorted out, Tagud's next order of business was to win back the patronage of the passengers who shied away from Nenaco because some of the trips were cancelled or delayed.

"We needed to impress upon the public that we were in business," Tagud tells the INQUIRER. "To do that, we made sure that trip schedules were kept."

Nenaco serves major destinations like Iloilo, Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Boracay, Roxas, Estancia, Manila and Palawan, with the Iloilo-Bacolod area as its stronghold.

To raise badly needed revenues, Tagud says the Metro Pa-

cific group, which owns Nenaco, put in about P250 million to complete the repair and upgrade of four more ships, bringing the fleet up to nine vessels by February 2005.

Tagud says he also had to oversee the further reduction in Nenaco's personnel from about 900 when he came in to the current force of 600, only 390 of whom are regular employees.

Tagud says it was especially painful for him to see some people let go in the course of the restructuring of Nenaco. But it was something that had to be done to keep the company afloat.

"One of the factors that made me accept this job is the prospect of helping these people, mostly blue-collar workers who won't get a job elsewhere, preserve their jobs," Tagud says. "But if we don't do this, the company will have to close and everybody will lose their jobs."

Tagud displayed the same indomitable will when he pursued the plan for Nenaco to get back the profitable food and ticketing business from third-party providers.

The decision was met with

much protests and even threats to his person as many companies have been profiting for years from the food and ticketing businesses, and are loathe to let their cash cows go.

But Tagud forged on and Nenaco got the businesses back, and more profitable they have become.

The cut in costs and the increase in revenue have resulted in Nenaco reducing its net loss at the end of 2004 to P400 million from over P1 billion at the end of 2003.

By the end of last year, Nenaco posted a modest profit of P17 million and the company is looking at improving further on its bottom line this year.

Forcing the issue on the food and ticketing businesses was not the first time that Tagud went out on a limb to do what he believes is right, even if it's unpopular or may come at a cost.

Tagud, for instance, zoomed into national prominence in 2003 when he blew the whistle on the alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, the construction of which went up to P1.1 billion.

Tagud was a director of the Public Estates Authority at that time, and he was instrumental in the filing of graft cases involving former top executives of PEA and officials of the Commission on Audit before the Sandigan-bayan.

The hearings on the case continue and he remains a principal witness.

Tagud likewise stood up to Manuel Villar in 1998 and convinced him as chief executive officer of C&P Homes that going into middle-income housing was the right thing to do.

Tagud led the team in reorienting C&P Homes from the declining "low-cost" housing market to the growing mid-income housing market, pioneering and tapping more extensively the overseas Filipino workers when no housing developers dared in the early '90s.

"Management for me is really just about common sense," Tagud says, "if you overanalyze, you will be paralyzed."

He has been living by this principle since he was six, when he started helping his mother sell

IF YOU/52

The rich do not buy a house to put a roof over their heads

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE RICH ARE A DIFFERENT BREED. They indulge in activities that would shock others and they buy things for reasons different from those of Juan de la Cruz.

Take real estate purchases, for example. While most Filipinos buy property because they need a roof over their heads, the rich buy houses, according to their "life stage."

Angela de Villa-Lacson has been in charge of the high-end real-estate market of the Ayala group for the past five years. Recently, the group created the Ayala Land Premier whose job it is to sell the group's real estate projects with price tags of P6 million to P55 million (like the penthouse of the Roxas Triangle in Makati).

Lacson says the rich are prompted to buy property "because of a change in their life stage."

The Ayala Land Inc. senior vice president explains: As young adults, they are bought condo units by their parents. Locations of these units must be near "where the action is and the gimmick places."

When they marry and have children, they move to a bigger condo unit or buy a house. When opting for a house, there are usually trade-offs, such as living in an area far from the commercial district and the night spots, but nearer schools and with better surroundings.

When the children grow up and get their own places, the couple then moves back to a smaller place, such as a condo unit, because the house becomes too big.

At the same time, the rich do not just buy one house. They buy several.

Ayala Land Premier, for example, has "suki" clients who buy in almost every development project of the group.

This habit of the rich has actually created "ghost towns" in some areas in the metropolis because the rich do buy property, but do not always build on it; or build beautiful houses that nobody lives in because they look at these as investments or future houses of their unmarried children.

But while Lacson admits that "there is a core group of buyers" who buy in every



LACSON

new Ayala Land development, sometimes without even seeing the area, they do not have any "ghost towns."

She says ALL is always able to attract homeowners who live in the developments.

And these buyers, she says, are not high profile and they prefer the privacy afforded by some of the developments of Ayala.

Over the past five years, changes have occurred in the real property market that have prompted Ayala Land Inc., the real estate arm of the Ayala conglomerate, to further define its market.

Thus ALL now has three residential real estate arms—Ayala Land Premier which is its most high end; Ayala Land Corp., formerly the Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), which targets real estate buyers of property worth P700,000 to P3 million; and Community Innovations Inc., which focuses on clients who can afford units costing P2.5 million to P8 million.

THE RICH/52



THE CLUBHOUSE at the Ayala Greenfields

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AKIN BIGAY	AKIN BIGAY
IYO MURA.	IYO MURA.
IKAW 'WAG	IKAW 'WAG
NA TAWAD.	NA TAWAD.
OKE?	OKE?
OKE, OKE!	OKE, OKE!
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Wallis boutique at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall

'Good value, latest trends, sell'

"ALL CUSTOMERS LOOK FOR GOOD VALUE and fashion products that are on-trend," says Arcadia Group's international director Amir Afkani.

The Arcadia Group is the United Kingdom's largest fashion retailer with nearly 2,000 stores worldwide including those of Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins and Wallis, the latest women's fashion brand from the UK to enter the Philippines.

"With that in mind, we recently introduced to the highly competitive Philippine market a brand (Wallis) that gives customers with the purchasing power, great and distinctively different styles," says Afkani.

Targeted toward the 35 and above age bracket, Wallis' clothes and accessories conjure collections that are individual and distinguished. They target career-driven and modern women who want to look ageless and who want to exude that "forever 30" spirit.

"The Wallis woman has a keen eye on looking sexy and glamorous," Afkani adds. "It has a very distinct style which sets it apart from the rest of high street fashion."

Launching any brand internationally is challenging especially when there is a lower level of recognition in the local market. In marketing their products in countries with different cultures (from Great Britain and Germany to Malaysia and the Middle East), they try to look for differences in their markets and adjust their offer to meet local tastes and needs.

"The most striking element of the Philippine market, we observe, is the friendliness of everyone—from the store staff to the customers," he explains. "With Wallis, we found out that customers very easily understood the

brand and its look. A lot of customers very quickly became attached to the brand."

The creativity of Arcadia's designers, quality merchandise and the ability of the company to identify and give what a particular market wants are basically what make the Arcadia Group one of the strongest and most popular fashion purveyors in the world today.

The history of the Arcadia Group or Burton Group (as it was then called) can be traced back to 1909 when the first Burton stores were established.

The group as it stands today came together after a number of acquisitions in the early '70s and has gone through many changes since then.

As of August 2005, the group had total sales of £1,770 million which was 6.8 percent above the previous year. Operating profits were 326 million pounds, up 10.1 percent against the previous year. "Our international operations are growing in strength and our brands are successful in all major regions. This year, we opened our first Wallis Asian store in the Philippines. Our brands operate in 26 countries worldwide covering Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Our latest openings are in Indonesia where five of the brands will be launched in July," he explains.

"Following our record year in 2004, Arcadia saw its biggest increase in sales and store numbers in 2005. This trend is continuing in 2006 and we look forward to another record year. None of this would have been possible without close collaboration with our franchise partners who do a great job in each local market," he explains.

Wallis Boutique is at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

Get a burger with a card tap

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IMAGINE GOING TO THE MRT STATION without the snake lines, or paying for your groceries with just a tap of the card.

Mastercard, the leading global payments solutions, is expanding its reach in Asia-Pacific's huge retail markets with the launch of its PayPass technology recently in Malaysia. Aside from Malaysia, PayPass programs have been introduced in the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan and Japan.

PayPass is the simpler way to pay bills and other purchases. It features an embedded computer chip and hidden antenna in a card or other formats such as a cell phone, a watch or a key fob.

Cardholders simply tap or touch their PayPass card on a specially equipped merchant terminal. The card then securely transmits payment details wirelessly, eliminating the need for a cardholder to hand over his card to the merchant.

With the PayPass technology, account details are communicated directly to the special terminals and are then processed through Mastercard's network.

Moments after consumers tap the terminal with their PayPass card, they receive payment confirmation. PayPass is built around globally interoperable standards and relies on ISO standards to transmit payment data via radio frequency.

So forget swiping, or inserting your card or handing it to a cashier.

With the PayPass, you can drive by fast-food restaurants without having to fumble for crumpled bills buried deep in your pocket or smear your fingers as you try to get those bills stuffed at the side of your car seat.

MasterCard PayPass is ideal for cash-only environments where speed of transaction is important such as fast-food restaurants drive-thrus, convenience stores, movie theatres, self-serve gas stations, mass transit, pharmacies, parking lots and toll roads. Mastercard also offers its quick payment service (QPS) program to merchants which waive signature requirements for purchases done with PayPass for example, under \$25, fur-



PAYPASS at McDonald's in the US.

ther speeding customer's transactions.

In Malaysia for instance, where Mastercard launched its OneSmart Mastercard Paypass in February, a number of merchants have accepted PayPass. These range from supermarkets to transportation providers, coffee operators and snack bars, apparel and footwear boutiques, and department stores.

In the Philippines, this also opens a number of possibilities.

"The object of the PayPass is more for small or retail cash pays like fast food, the cinemas, parking and bowling lanes, and even mass transit," Antonio T. Corro, director for operations at Mastercard International told the INQUIRER.

Corro said the Philippines' so-called "sachet" market is very innovative which makes it ready for computer chip credit technology.

In fact, second largest Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mastercard launched in January 2005 a PayPass pilot program for BPI's express credit card brand. The BPI credit PayPass card, for now, uses a magnetic strip.

Corro also said there are other banks that plan to roll out PayPass but he thought it prudent not to name them yet.

In the case of BPI, the PayPass pilot program was done initially with BPI employees and lured around 20 merchants within the Ayala malls.

In other countries, the regulatory

environment has accelerated the migration to computer chip technology used in credit cards which has made it easier to adopt PayPass formats and conduct a mass rollout of the technology.

With the benefits offered by PayPass, will this jack up costs for the cardholder?

"When it comes to the pricing, it is really up to the issuing bank to dictate. Sometimes for convenience you have to pay a little extra but it is for the long-term and it will also depend on which formats it will run, whether on the cell phone, or a watch," Corro said.

"In the case of the Philippines, we have already BPI which has migrated to EMV. It is up to the member banks to decide whether to migrate to EMV or not. In other countries like Malaysia, their central bank mandates the migration to EMV," he stressed.

EMV is a standard for the interoperability of chip cards and point-of-sale terminals for authenticating credit and debit card payments.

The name EMV is short for "Europay MasterCard Visa," the three companies which originally cooperated to develop the standard.

Aside from credit card transactions, and popular retail venues like groceries and drive-thrus, the PayPass technology has also been introduced into the lucrative mass transport system.

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- LOT 23 - Lot Only LA 619 sqm. Lot 29 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 24 - Lot Only LA 639 sqm. Lot 30 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 25 - Lot Only LA 659 sqm. Lot 31 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 26 - Lot Only LA 679 sqm. Lot 32 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 27 - Lot Only LA 699 sqm. Lot 33 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 28 - Lot Only LA 719 sqm. Lot 34 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 32 - Lot Only LA 799 sqm. Lot 38 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 33 - Lot Only LA 819 sqm. Lot 39 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 34 - Lot Only LA 839 sqm. Lot 40 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 35 - Lot Only LA 859 sqm. Lot 41 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 36 - Lot Only LA 879 sqm. Lot 42 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 38 - Lot Only LA 919 sqm. Lot 44 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 41 - Lot Only LA 979 sqm. Lot 47 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 42 - Lot Only LA 999 sqm. Lot 48 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 43 - Lot Only LA 1,019 sqm. Lot 49 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 55 - Lot Only LA 1,259 sqm. Lot 61 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 58 - Lot Only LA 1,319 sqm. Lot 64 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 60 - Lot Only LA 1,359 sqm. Lot 66 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 63 - Lot Only LA 1,419 sqm. Lot 69 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 68 - Lot Only LA 1,519 sqm. Lot 74 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 73 - Lot Only LA 1,619 sqm. Lot 79 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 74 - Lot Only LA 1,639 sqm. Lot 80 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 75 - Lot Only LA 1,659 sqm. Lot 81 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 76 - Lot Only LA 1,679 sqm. Lot 82 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 77 - Lot Only LA 1,699 sqm. Lot 83 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 78 - Lot Only LA 1,719 sqm. Lot 84 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 79 - Lot Only LA 1,739 sqm. Lot 85 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 80 - Lot Only LA 1,759 sqm. Lot 86 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 81 - Lot Only LA 1,779 sqm. Lot 87 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 82 - Lot Only LA 1,799 sqm. Lot 88 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 83 - Lot Only LA 1,819 sqm. Lot 89 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 84 - Lot Only LA 1,839 sqm. Lot 90 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 85 - Lot Only LA 1,859 sqm. Lot 91 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 86 - Lot Only LA 1,879 sqm. Lot 92 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 87 - Lot Only LA 1,899 sqm. Lot 93 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 88 - Lot Only LA 1,919 sqm. Lot 94 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 110 - Lot Only LA 2,359 sqm. Lot 116 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 111 - Lot Only LA 2,379 sqm. Lot 117 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 112 - Lot Only LA 2,399 sqm. Lot 118 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 113 - Lot Only LA 2,419 sqm. Lot 119 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 114 - Lot Only LA 2,439 sqm. Lot 120 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 115 - Lot Only LA 2,459 sqm. Lot 121 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
- LOT 116 - Lot Only LA 2,479 sqm. Lot 122 Bldg 8-910. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banaag. Minimum Bid Price: 2,379,700.00.
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- LOT 122 - Lot Only LA 2,599 sqm. Lot 128 B

Suburban Living in the City

You enjoy the good life. You engage in businesses, attend conferences, fire up boardrooms, and cultivate networks. You succeed, building a name and a nest egg you truly deserve to enjoy. Yet the demands of keeping up with such a lifestyle often erodes life's important pleasures: of recreation, of leisure, of time with loved ones. Of personal space, pampering and rejuvenation. You waste hours on traffic, come home late to a sleeping family, and endanger your health with stress and polluted surroundings. Some people work hard for the good life, but rarely enjoy it.

Serendra strives to put an end to this compromise. Developed by Ayala Land Premier and Community Innovations, it is a distinctive, sprawling garden residential condominium that eliminates the need to choose between what you want and what's convenient. It gives you both—merging urban expediency with the graces of vast and airy suburbia. With Serendra, Ayala Land offers a truly suburban setting at the heart of Bonifacio Global City, one of today's busiest and fastest growing hubs.

Anticipated to be the Philippine's next center of commerce, culture and trade, Bonifacio Global City's new masterplan will create a dynamic environment that never sleeps. And with Serendra integrated thoughtfully into Bonifacio Global City's overall vision of pedestrian-friendly transport, open spaces and civic centers, you will be in the most prime spot to enjoy all these conveniences at hand. Enjoy your own family space in Serendra while still having top-notch hospitals, schools, business centers, and retail establishments nearby when needed.

Serendra is also easily accessible to top business districts such as Makati and Ortigas CBD, thus allowing you to do business close to home. Now, you can spend hours previously wasted on traffic with your family. You can work all day, drive home in time for dinner, play with your kids, and discuss the day's events with your spouse. And you can do it every day. No more compromise between working for the good life and actually enjoying it—at Serendra, you can do both.
(continued on page 4)

Sprawling gardens. Spacious lawns. Lush hedges. Not just in token amounts, mind you, but in lavish proportions. That's what you'll find at Serendra—a low-density residential area in the prestigious Bonifacio Global City. A singular achievement in modern real estate development, Serendra's freshness is found not merely in its greenery, but in every nook and cranny of its meticulously masterplanned property.

Serendra

A Luxury of Space at One Serendra

You live the good life. You enjoy the finer things—a comfortable ride home in your luxury sedan, the finest wines to go with your gourmet meal, the softest sheets to ensure a good night's sleep. Above all, what matters is that you know the best things in life are not necessarily free—investment also comes in the form of spending a little bit more to enjoy comforts and conveniences that will go a long way in pampering your body and your mind.

There is a place that is perfect to call your home—Ayala Land Premier's One Serendra, the lowest-density sprawling garden residential development within the whole Bonifacio Global City and perhaps even in the whole local real-estate market. It provides just the ideal luxury of space for discerning individuals or families who place a premium on ease, relaxation, contentment and well-being.

Unit sizes at One Serendra are meant for the assurance of privacy and security, and freedom of living. Whether in a one-, two-, or three-bedroom abode, and with unit sizes as luxuriously spacious as up to 300 square meters, you will feel an effective escape from the city, buffered even more by the greenery that surrounds you in the form of landscapes, themed gardens and open spaces. After a day at work or a tiring travel abroad, your home serves as a soothing retreat and sanctuary for your soul. Find your own personal space within the vast greenery and serene surroundings.

It will not be difficult to feel relaxed with the fine appointments of One Serendra units. Discriminating tastes will appreciate such details as narra parquet flooring and natural stone kitchen countertops. Well-seasoned travelers who enjoy top-notch hotel services can expect little but meaningful conveniences such as hot tap water or an audio-video guest annunciator. There are even walk-in closets in select units to provide the ultimate indulgence in your treasured personal effects. Special units with wraparound views and numerous open balconies are available for those yearning for even greater space to build their lives in.

Expect no electrical interruptions with 100 percent power backup. This and other meticulous property management tasks are taken care of by the renowned Ayala Property Management Corporation, preserving the value of your investment and even adding more value to your home.

At One Serendra, you can live your life at your own relaxed pace. Top amenities are equally spacious, efficient and low density, assuring you of opportunities to condition your mind along with your body. A spa is exclusively at your disposal for even more relaxing moments. Paths that wind along the landscape environment and pedestrian walkways enable you to stop and smell the flowers, quite literally and figuratively.

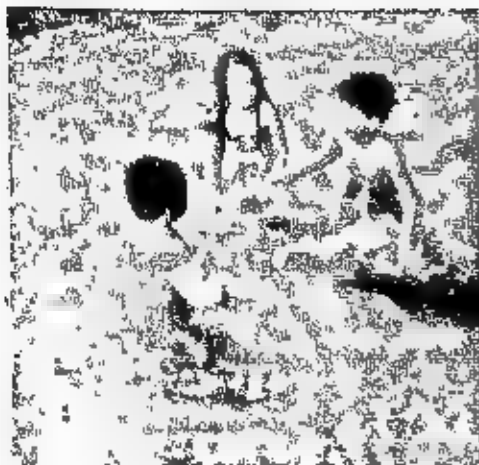
Live the life you have always envisioned at One Serendra—a place where you and your family can enjoy spaciousness both within nature and within your very home. A life dictated by your own desires and personal freedom. A life of unparalleled serenity and convenience for those in the know.

AyalaLand PREMIER

Does your day have room for this?

At One Serendra, you'll have room to lounge and laze about in perfect luxury and ease. You'll have room for a whole lot of everything else as well. Because at One Serendra, you enjoy not just the 65% greenery offered every other Serendra owner, but appointments and living space unparalleled in the whole Bonifacio Global City. Ayala Land Premier's One Serendra has generously spaced units that give you and your family the kind of room normally only found in first-class suburban developments. Do try to squeeze in a visit to us today. We've more than enough room to accommodate you.

ONE Serendra



Vibrant Community Living at Two Serendra

For the urban professional, shopping for a home is often tainted with compromise. The demands of a budding career and a thriving social life create divergent needs few residential choices can adequately satisfy. The city, with its much coveted accessibility, contains high levels of noise and pollution most would rather do without. And farther flung areas, though less stressful to the soul, can cut off the very best parts of a young and progressive lifestyle.

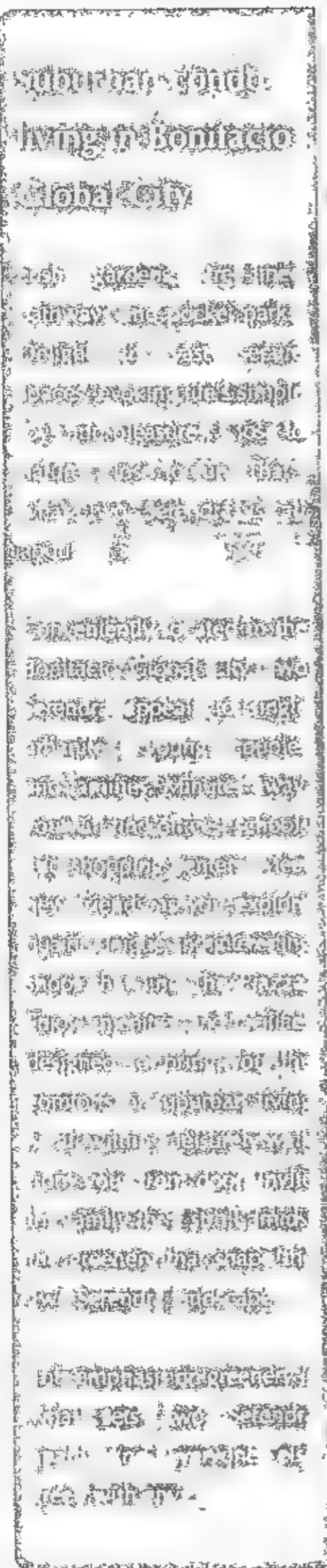
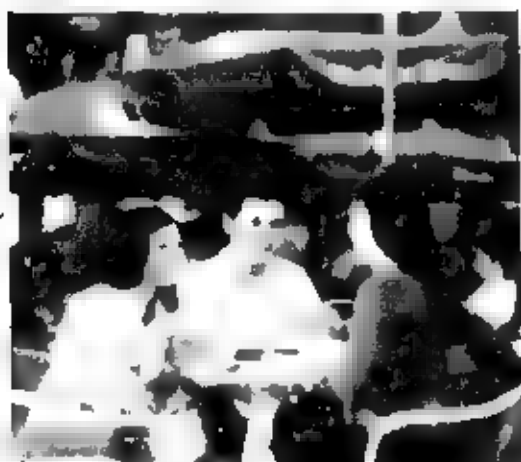
Fortunately, Community Innovations' Two Serendra promises efficient yet inventive use of space, fostering a fast-paced community culture that's appealing to most of today's young, urban achievers. At Two Serendra, accessibility, creativity and affordability merge seamlessly, opening up opportunities for interaction within and beyond the confines of the city.

Two Serendra offers fair-sized units ranging from 36 to 120 square meters. Clients can choose among tastefully designed studios, one-, two- or 3-bedroom homes. Whatever they choose, they still enjoy a piece of impressive greenery. After a hard day at work, you can go to the gym, swim in the pool, or make use of the jogging paths bordered by breathtaking landscape.

Two Serendra allows you to live the active dynamic life you enjoy. Shop at the hippest of stores. Have coffee with friends. Get your hair done at a salon. Sample some of the world's best cuisines. For a change of scenery, drive over to any of Makati and The Fort's numerous bars and restaurants for a night out. And once you're done, home is just minutes away.

At Two Serendra, you can shift lifestyles as often as you want. Its units' standard features and finishes speak of only the highest quality and value for money. Complete kitchen systems installed in all of the units will enable you to cook up a fabulous spread for your family and friends. Provisions for convenient home living are also available, from water heating systems to washer and dryer connections to ensure that you are able to focus your energies on building the kind of successful and fulfilling life you want.

Whatever your mood or personality is at the moment, Two Serendra will work for you. From festive get-togethers with friends to precious quality time with yourself, from business meetings to family days, Serendra has just the right place in which you and people you care about can gather. A community with multiple facets, it's designed to accommodate even the most demanding of achievers—people who work and play hard, and want the best they can get from either endeavor.



Two
Serendra

Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an Ayala Land company



(From page 1)

A unique sight to behold

Spanning all of 12 hectares, Serendra offers you living spaces awash with quality of life. A feast for the eyes, it combines a European-inspired master plan with distinctive Filipino architecture, seamlessly merging two of the world's best and most creative designs. In Serendra, low, mid-rise and taller sections patterned after the famed "Bahay na Bato" architecture are set amidst approximately seven and a half hectares of greenery—wide open spaces, gardens, and other conveniences designed to please both the eye and the spirit. At Serendra, you can stroll along ample areas with lush landscaping, enjoying a serene urban sanctuary in the safety of a controlled environment.

Amenities are ample and truly enjoyable, giving unique experiences of vigor or relaxation, whichever you choose. You can swim, go to the gym, jog, or play badminton, with the facilities all within easy reach. Have peace of mind leaving the children at fun and well-secured play areas.

With the most modern of amenities set amidst multiple hectares of lush greenery, Serendra offers the best of many worlds, easily transforming from tranquil suburbia to a busy modern lifestyle hub and back again. This is especially true at

The Piazza at Serendra, a multidimensional commercial area offering a score of products and services in small, quaint shops, reminiscent of European neighborhood stores where everyone and everybody is welcome. The shopping experience at The Piazza will be multicultural and unique, authentically sourced from destinations spanning the globe, yet conveniently set in the middle of the development, only a few steps away from home—a truly unique proposition found nowhere else.

Suburban living in the city. This is Serendra. Indeed, the perfect place in which to enjoy the life you and your family truly deserve.

The Rising Vision of Serendra

Merely two years since it broke ground and its foundations had been laid, Serendra, the Philippines' first sprawling residential garden condominium development has firmly taken shape. Indeed, Ayala Land Premier and Community Innovations have gained considerable headway in their efforts to complete the project in time for its initial scheduled turnover in 2007.

Serendra merges the peace and privacy of suburbia with all the conveniences of the city. It is set amid hectares of lush greenery just a stone's throw away from several of the country's centers for culture and trade. Ayala Land's latest development offers a versatile lifestyle for its residents—whether it be tranquil personal space or dynamic and vibrant living.

One Serendra

With its bigger-sized units, One Serendra holds the distinction of being the lowest-density residential development within the Bonifacio Global City. For discerning homeowners, One Serendra offers an enviable sense of exclusivity, comfort, security and privacy. It has unique, masterplanned, themed gardens such as an orchard, an herb garden, and Zen-inspired landscaping, along with several country club-like amenities such as an exclusive spa. One Serendra truly provides its residents the ideal setting for a gracious lifestyle where one can live at their own preferred pace.

The good news is that prospective One Serendra residents need not wait long. One Serendra held its ceremonial top-off last January 17 at the Serendra construction site in Bonifacio Global City. The top-off celebrated the completion of One Serendra Section A's structural and concrete works, signaling the halfway completion of the project.

During the event, Ayala Land's Assistant Vice President for Ayala Land Premier Residential Buildings Kate Ilagan expressed that she considers the top-off a genuine milestone, as it assures ALP clients that they will be able to meet their turnover deadline. "It's very important for us to deliver what we promised our buyers, both in terms of schedule and quality. Prompt delivery is one of the legacies of Ayala Land," she said.

Whether in a one-, two-, or three-bedroom unit, with sprawling floor areas of up to 300 square meters, One Serendra residents will experience stress-free relief from the hustle and bustle of the metropolis with such a luxury of space. The greenery that surrounds them in the form of landscapes, themed gardens and wide open spaces provides an ambience of serenity and calm, together with unit finishes and features unmatched in luxury and detail. Indeed, One Serendra offers one of the most innovative concepts in premier living, set amid a similarly pioneering architectural design of medium-rise buildings amidst a lush garden setting. "Serendra uses a trend-setting approach to condominium design," enthuses architect Ted Narciso, Partner-in-Charge of Design. "It truly aims to give its residents the highest value in suburban living in the city."

Two Serendra

Two Serendra, Community Innovations' impressive community of stylish, versatile abodes for today's urban achievers, also held its top-off last January 31 at the construction site in Bonifacio Global City. Company representatives were on hand to participate in simple ceremonies signaling the halfway completion of Two Serendra. Unit owners are now a step closer to realizing a truly relaxing and recharging suburban lifestyle that compliments active and upwardly mobile values, with its functional and tastefully designed units.

According to Dan Abando, head of Two Serendra's Technical Services Group, topping-off is a major accomplishment as far as any construction development is concerned, as it pronounces structural completion with the last structural member being put into place. "Topping-off declares, particularly to our clients, that we are moving to the final stages of the project and we are surely getting to the turnover period," he said. "It also adds excitement to our clients that very soon they will be living in their new homes and enjoying everything that we have promised them."

For the urban professional, home would be a place where the many contrasting yet equally important aspects of life can successfully coexist, with ample facilities and amenities for sports and recreation. Two Serendra is one such place, as it fosters a sufficiently individual yet interactive community culture appealing to most of today's urbanites. At Two Serendra, accessibility, creativity and value for money merge seamlessly, opening up opportunities for interaction within and beyond the confines of the city. Indeed, tastefully designed studios, one-, two- or 3-bedroom homes ranging from 36 to 120 square meters give residents ample room to live and grow.

Abando remarked that they will continue with construction using the same amount of diligence and enthusiasm it took to reach this milestone. "Although we have our drawings and specifications set, we are still looking into areas where we can improve by working beyond our limits," he said. Indeed, continuous lifestyle innovation is on track at Two Serendra.

The Piazza at Serendra

The development of The Piazza at Serendra, an international retail haven at the heart of Serendra, is likewise proceeding as planned. According to CJ Jesena, senior division manager of Ayala Malls in charge of leasing at The Piazza, Ayala Malls has already begun turning over all units of The Piazza to its merchants last January 31. "We are now turning over to our confirmed merchants, some of whom have already started drawing up construction plans for our evaluation and approval," he said. "At present, we are on track to partially open July 2006."



One Serendra Section A



Ayala Land officials and One Serendra technical project team partners perform a ceremonial topping off on the 10th floor of the sprawling, low to mid-rise condominium development's first section. From left to right: architect Ted Narciso of GF & Partners, architect Mae Cruz of L. V. Locsin Partners, Design Coordinates Inc. president Oscar Salcedo, E&E Corp. president Roberto Castillo, Ayala Land Premier Residential Buildings senior vice president Angie Lacson and assistant vice president Kate Ilagan, Ayala Land vice president Emilio Tumbocan, Ayala Land president Jim Ayala, and Ayala Land assistant vice president Raul Bautista.

A retail promenade awash with a fusion of cultures highlighting food, specialty retail and service establishments in a two-level indoor-outdoor environment, The Piazza at Serendra aims to give Serendra residents and the discerning public a taste of a genuine multicultural lifestyle. It shall house approximately 85 different merchants who will design their own storefronts reflecting unique and diverse design tastes—an international esplanade that will showcase the best of Filipino, Asian, European, and Continental culture and cuisine. Quaint shops and restos whose keepers and chefs are like neighbors and friends—that is the unique experience The Piazza will bring in the local shopping scene. A ground level that will feature small specialty and deli shops, and anchor spaces for music, health, beauty, and published products; and second floor shops that will offer unique home finds and exotic curios—arts and crafts, antiques, and Soho-type home furniture and accessories. Services and amenities such as beauty and health services, banks, schools and travel agencies will also be available.

With the initial list of merchants now taking shape, The Piazza at Serendra is truly something to look forward to. For a world of flavors, there will be an exciting new Filipino dining concept from the Larry J. Group of Restaurants, Middle Eastern cuisine concepts by Hossein's Persian Kebab, an Italian deli and wine bar by Café Puccini, hearty Spanish meals from the kitchen of the Gaudi group, Portico by the Chateau 1771 group, and exquisite desserts by Mary Grace Ensaymada and Nana Meng's chocolate.

Art items, knickknacks and whatnots—an Indian gift item store from Gifts of Maharani, a Murano glass sculpture and gift item shop, and Latin American gifts from Casa Amarilla. Local followers of renowned Filipino exporter Padua Designs will also finally be able to bring home this design house's distinctive pieces.



The Piazza at Serendra, construction in progress (bottom) and the envisioned international esplanade when completed (top)

All these create an incomparable environment with Serendra's sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, and charming residential units that are by themselves multi-cultural. The central common area of The Piazza at Serendra will showcase elegant water features and public art pieces, as well as lush landscaping jutting out from the basement parking levels.

The Piazza at Serendra, together with the fast-rising residential buildings and lush landscaping already taking shape, assures that the vision of Serendra is truly not too far away.



Community Innovations (CI) officials and Two Serendra project team partners signify the topoff of the development. From left to right: principal architect Jojo Tolentino of RMJM Philippines, CI project architect Edwin Yabut, CI head of technical services group Dan Abando, Ayala Land vice president and Malabon Development Corp. president Emilio Tumbocan, CI president Bobby Dy, CI sales group head Efrén Yán, CI project development manager Iris Josef, CI project development group head Jonathan Umali, and RMJM Philippines director Ben Villarama.

Filipino-owned call center operates for the poor

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY BUSINESS CIRCLES have been talking about them for months now. But few took serious note of talks that a group of retired bankers and accountants has set up a call center to finance philanthropic work in the poorest communities of this city.

Nam-ay Ti Umili Inc. (NTU), a foundation that provides business consultancy and micro-finance support for Baguio's urban poor, formed a non-stock, non-profit call center inside the Baguio City Economic Zone on Oct. 3, 2005 for under P2 million.

NTU is a two-year old foundation, which began as a group of computer-savvy business experts before it diversified into a P100,000 lending project that caters to street vendors and residents here.

NTU operates its 50-member call center as an outbound facility, which sells credit lines or American products overseas on behalf of foreign clients so it can generate P6 million each month to fund social projects.

Lilia de Lima, director-general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), has proclaimed the NTU call center as the only non-profit operation that has so far been allowed inside any government-administered economic zone in the country.

The fledgling call center trade also classifies NTU as the country's first all-Filipino venture in this industry, said Rodie Abejero, NTU operations manager.



SAINTS OF EDSA. These are the foundations of an unusual call center that was formed to literally feed Baguio's poor. Nam-ay Ti Umili Inc. (it stands for community wellbeing) has been operating for two years as a micro-lending facility. Late last year, NTU decided to operate the first all-Filipino call center to finance their social projects. In photo are: (from left) Rika Cariño, call center administrator; Teresita Sagucio, NTU trustee; Erlinda Alvaro, NTU vice president; Rodie Abejero, call center operations manager; and the other trustee, Laurence Sagucio.

Yet at first, even Peza could not immediately swallow NTU's profit-for-social-upliftment concept, says Erlinda Alvaro, NTU vice president and a retired manager of the Bank of Philippine Islands' Baguio branch.

She says NTU president Rafael Orpilla and NTU lawyer Arleen Rodelas-Orpilla had to challenge Peza to treat them as an "out-of-the-box test case" before the foundation could sign up as the latest

firm to locate to the Baguio zone.

Laurence Sagucio, one of NTU's trustees and a former official of PCIBank, says a general cynicism surrounding NTU's goals appeared influenced by the government's masked profiteering activities.

The direction taken by their five-month-old call center operation also wobbled slightly off course when some clients from the United States began pulling

RELAXING FACTORY. The Nam-ay call center is outfitted with modern libraries like this one with Nam-ay trustee Teresita Sagucio, a former banker, to help relax workers. Its design is harmonious with the firm's policy of social consciousness in business.



out on Feb. 24, the day President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of national emergency, Abejero says.

IFNTU's clients, like street vendors, even knew how emergency rule had almost cost them their "business life support," they would immediately blame Ms. Arroyo, says Teresita Sagucio, NTU treasurer and a former BPI official.

But she says blaming the government was the nature of poor Filipinos outside Metro Manila that the NTU wants to change.

"Nam-ay ti Umili" is the Ilocano translation of the phrase "community welfare" and it defines the outlook of this business.

Before they met up with NTU, the US-based Orpillas went to Baguio to find people begging for loans to cope with the slide in the national economy, Alvaro says.

Taking their cue from their findings, the Orpilla couple returned to the US to handle NTU's

marketing overseas.

At about the same period, NTU's original business consultancy discovered a better way of doing business when it took on an auditing assignment for some Baguio-based lending institutions.

Alvaro says a credit check of the clients serviced by these lending firms revealed to them the kind of poverty Baguio residents would never encounter.

"For former bankers who used to deal exclusively with corporate accounts ... we were suddenly going to the Irisan dumpsite. We saw the houses there have no floors. We saw beds set alongside kitchens that were an inch high in water ... We realized that street vendors who lose a day's worth of [earnings] when caught by police will literally starve for the day [gauging by the condition of their homes]," she says.

Alvaro says their audit assignment was supposed to uncover irregularity in the lending firms'

operations, "but it also enlightened" NTU about what the poor really need.

Traders sometimes diverted borrowed money to pay for tuition, buy medicine or add to savings intended for the overseas employment of a relative, Alvaro says, "although 90 percent of the borrowers ultimately complete their payments without a hitch."

These revelations guide NTU's call center mission, says Rika Cariño, the call center administrator.

All employees sign contracts that obligate them to devote a portion of their time to community service, and much of the NTU's training manuals supply management instructions that would help them transcend their career goals by focusing on "what they can do beyond their obligations to their respective families," she says.

It's a mantra for a new business principle that the NTU plans to advocate in the future.

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Sunday BIZ



SPECTATORS, mostly from the high echelons of the society and the diplomatic community, watch the Enrique Zobel Memorial Polo Cup held at the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati.

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A horse game that's not for everyone

Text and photos by Ernie Sarmiento

IT IS OFTEN CALLED THE "SPORT OF KINGS". British and Spanish royalties play the game. The exact origin of polo, the oldest team sport, is unknown. But it is believed that polo was probably first played by nomadic warriors over 2,000 years ago.



BOBBY Aguirre of the Blue team after the match.



INIGO Zobel with his buddy Greggory Araneta.

In the Philippines, the game is played only by a few, mostly the scions of rich families living inside the exclusive Forbes Park village. Leading players of polo read like the who's who in the land. Names like the Zobels, Elizaldes, Aranetas, Aguirres, Yulos, etc. dominate the sport.

But the most passionate lover of this sport was the late tycoon Enrique Zobel. Playing on many polo fields around the world, Zobel (as he is fondly called) brought home countless trophies, the most prized of which was the King of Spain's Cup which he bagged three years in a row. Using "polo diplomacy," the former chief executive officer of the Ayala Corporation and Bank of the Philippine Islands helped bring together rulers of previously unfriendly Asian nations. Unfortunately, Zobel was paralyzed from neck down due to a polo accident in Spain in the early 90s. He died in 2004 from respiratory complications.

As a fitting tribute to the man, The Enrique Zobel Memorial Cup was established by his family last year to celebrate the visionary businessman's lifetime



INIGO Zobel carries daughter Rocio after the high goal match where his White team beat the Blue team 17-8.

affair with horses and polo. Last Feb. 12, the Zobel Cup brought together the finest polo players, sports enthusiasts and their families, as well as international players from Chile, Spain and Uruguay for a weekend of polo.



DMCI executives during the rice offering ceremony (from left): Herbert Consunji, Alfredo Austria, Rey Salazar, Al Cerveto

Bali in Paranaque

DMCI HOMES, THE REAL ESTATE arm of the DM Consunji, recently launched its Aman Garden Residences with a Balinese setting. Located along the West Service Road in Mervile Paranaque City, the multi-million peso development adopts a Balinese designs and architecture.

Aman Garden will have a central resort-recreation amenities which include an infinity pool, a floating audio-video entertainment pavilion, meditation centers, a bi-level clubhouse with view decks and function rooms, a spa fitness gym and a fine dining restaurant.



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RESIDENTIAL		
CALOCAN		
1. Lot 92, Road Lot 2, Perpetual Subd., Bagumbong	LA 240	312,000
LAS PIÑAS		
2. House & Lot, Lot 32 B 3 P 32 / Marcellus Veneza Homes BF Resort Village, Pampanga	LA 204 FA - 105.28	1,000,000
PARANAQUE		
• Washington Towers, AsiaWorld City, Taguig		
3. Unit 2C	LA - 339.43	8,485,000
4. 1 parking slot for Unit 2C	LA - 333.2	8,996,000
5. Unit 9B (w/ lease)	LA 347.47	9,367,000
6. Unit 9C (w/ lease)		400,000
7. Parking space for Unit 9B & 9C (w/ lease)	LA 323.49	8,092,000
8. Unit 3B (w/ lease)		400,000
9. Parking space for Unit 3B (w/ lease)	LA - 323.49	8,092,000
10. Unit 2B		400,000
11. Parking space for Unit 2B (w/ lease)	LA 617.13	21,999,000
12. Penthouse Unit D (w/ lease)		400,000
13. 2 parking slots for Penthouse for Unit D (w/ lease)	LA 336	4,000,000
14. H & L, No. 110 Elizalde St., BF Homes, Paranaque City (w/ lease)	FA - 794	6,000,000
15. H & L w/ swimming pool, No. 25 H&S & LPL Avenues Levittown Subd. La Huerta	FA - 801	6,000,000
16. H&L, EJ Montilla, BF Homes	FA 182.70 LA 280 FA 168	3,200,000
PASIG		
17. Condo/Unit 606, Crisanta Tower, Oranbo (with parking slot) (w/ lease)	FA 111.5	5,000,000
18. Townhouse/Eastside Manor Townhomes C Raymundo Avenue, Maybunga (w/ lease)	LA - 113 FA 226.82	8,000,000
QUEZON CITY		
19. Temple Drive, Greenmeadows Subd. Murphy District	LA 3552	99,456,000
TAGUIG		
20. 2 Sty H & L w/ 10 apt. units, Lot A-4 Interia, Molave St. Begang Bayan (no right of way)	LA 1025 FA 594.86	3,700,000
ANTIPOLO		
21. Lot 16 Block 5, Pearwood Street., Cottowood Heights • Foliage Hills	LA - 367	1,285,000
22. Lot 2 Block 1	LA - 240	840,000
23. Lot 4 Block 1	LA - 240	840,000
24. Lot 8 Block 3	LA - 317	1,109,000
• Mission Hills		
25. L10 B 1, Sta. Barbara	LA - 1026	4,104,000
26. L34 B 1, Concorde St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
27. L17 B 2, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
28. L22 B 2, Concorde St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
29. L34 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
30. L40 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
31. L44 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
32. L48 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
33. L6 B 1, Sta. Monica Ave., Sta. Monica (through lot)	LA - 646	2,584,000
• Town and Country Hills, Bo. Muntang		
34. P1 B1k 6 Lot 25, Kanlaon St.	LA - 240	602,000
35. P1 B1k 18 Lot 24, Mayon cor Kanlaon St.	LA - 484	1,378,000
• Town and Country Estates, Sumulong Highway		
36. P1 B1k 4A Lot 2	LA - 994	4,165,000
37. P1 B1k 4A Lot 9	LA - 1257	5,860,000
38. P1 B1k 4A Lot 10	LA 1351	5,836,000
39. P1 B1k 4A Lot 11	LA - 1435	6,735,000
40. P1 B1k 4A Lot 18	LA - 1344	5,806,000
41. P1 B1k 4B Lot 3	LA - 1454	6,285,000
42. P1 B1k 4B Lot 4	LA 1169	5,050,000
43. P1 B1k 4B Lot 5	LA - 1153	4,980,000
44. P1 B1k 4B Lot 6	LA - 1410	6,090,000
45. 10 P1 B1k 4B Lot 7	LA - 1502	6,490,000
46. P1 B1k 4B Lot 8	LA - 1449	6,260,000
47. P1 B1k 4C Lot 4	LA - 1550	6,700,000
48. P1 B1k 4C Lot 8	LA - 1494	6,110,000
49. P1 B1k 14D Lot 2	LA 1176	5,080,000
50. P1 B1k 14B Lot 4	LA 970	4,190,000
BATANGAS		
51. Lot 1-B J.P. Villages St., Bo. San Pedro, Sta. Tomas	LA - 111718.5	22,000,000
BULACAN		
52. 2 storey H & L, Lot 2, Bldg. 7, Richmond Village Bahay Fara, Meycauayan	LA 252 FA 283.50	2,500,000
53. Res'l Agr'l Lots 2234 and 1678 National Road (DRT) Highway Bo. Anyelam, San Mateo (w/ H&RO recognized claimants)	LA - 60705	1,500,000
CAVITE		
54. Unfinished House w/ basement, Lot 25 Block 30, Taguila St., Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Linaoan, Dasmariñas	LA 514 FA 297	1,500,000

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
LAGUNA		
55. H & L, Lot 5, 7 & 8, Block B, #10 Progressive Village 7 Subd. Brgy. San Nicolas, Bacoor	LA 740 FA 352.10	3,000,000
• Town and Country West, Malinao Bacoor		
56. P2 B1k 7 Lot 4, Octavio St.	LA - 160	455,000
57. P2A B1k 16 Lot 7, Postovera St.	LA 200	612,000
LAGUNA		
58. Lot 29-B, Block 4, Road Lot 2 cor Road Lot 4 Monte Cecilia Subd., Bo. Diemmo, Cabuyao	LA 1256	1,750,000
59. Res'l lot Sitio Patol, San Isidro, Cabuyao (w/ informal settlers, property call by barangay road)	LA 2382	2,400,000
COMMERCIAL		
MAKATI		
• ACT Tower Sea. Gil Puyat Ave & HV dela Costa St.		
60. Office Condo Unit Plus PS/Unit 7A (through lot)	FA 325.2	10,406,000
61. Office Condo Unit Plus PS/Unit 8A (through lot)	FA 325.2	10,406,000
62. Condo/Unit 3B (through lot) (w/ lease)	FA - 280.53	8,415,000
• BDO Plaza, Paseo de Roxas		
63. Condo/7th Floor Unit 1	FA 384	13,440,000
64. Condo/7th Floor Unit 2	FA 309	11,865,000
65. Condo/17th Floor (w/ lease)	FA - 373	13,055,000
66. Condo/20th Floor Unit 2	FA - 367	12,845,000
67. 11 Parking Slots for BDO Plaza (w/ lease)	LA 1220	5,500,000
68. Office/WH Bldg., 7761 St. Paul St. San Antonio Village	FA 904.50 FA 715.28	25,000,000 25,764,000
69. Unit 26, 26th Floor, The World Centre Condo. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., H.V. dela Costa, Salcedo VILL. (through lot, with 8 parking slots) Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. 70. No. 179 Sen Gil Puyat Ave. and Jupiter St., Makati City (5 sty bldg on through lot, w/ rental arrows)	LA 2000	225,000,000
QUEZON CITY		
71. Lots 3 & 4, Bldg. 13, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (CS), Libis	LA 831	37,300,000
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL (MIXED USE)		
MALABON		
72. Res'l/Comm'l. Bldg/Lot 25-A-3, RDC Comp., Bepito Rd.	LA - 1000 FA - 3712	23,700,000
MUNTINLUPA		
73. Vt. Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Brgy. Ayala Alabang	LA 1194	57,312,000
PASAY		
74. Comm'l. lot/Romas Blvd., San Rafael (w/ informal settlers on 1/3 of lot)	LA 3020	108,720,000
BATAAN		
75. Rawland along Roman Highway, Lot 399-B-2, Abu-min Marveles (w/ claimants)	LA 33468	8,500,000
BULACAN		
76. Agriculture/Rawland/Skyline Road, Sitio Tanglang Mangga Bo. Caye-gaya, San Jose Del Monte	LA - 11904.3 FA 3515	15,200,000
CAVITE		
77. Agriculture/Rawland, Tubbong, Kawit (no right of way)	LA - 18457	7,383,000
LAGUNA		
78. Rawland/Bo. Bucal & Lecheria, Calamba	LA 34750	41,700,000
79. Agriculture land/ Lot 1995-U, Bo. Malabon, Calamba. WOP	LA - 80070	3,900,000
TARLAC		
80. Comm'l./Res'l Lots, Maricao, Tarlac (w/ informal settlers)	LA - 22619	9,050,000

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

CELEBRATING WOMEN

Maria joins the revolution

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

(Along with Zsa Zsa Zaturrah Padilla at Gabor)

THE FAMILY ALWAYS WONDERED why my father-in-law (Dr. Antonio S. Fernando) never spoke about his mother. Once he hinted that, as a 9-year-old boy in Bulacan, he used to do the marketing. Where was his mother? One All Saints' Day, in the cemetery, my sister-in-law, Nic, asked him, "Where is your Mama buried, Papa?" Naturally uncommunicative, he tightened his lips even more and looked far, far away. But the Fernando clan, of course, had already heard of the deep dark secret. Lola Iyang had joined the Revolution and died in the mountains and her body was never found.

Her name was Maria Rodrigo, born of Gertrudis Macapugay and Nicolas Rodrigo. The Rodrigos lived in Bulacan, Bulacan, in front of the house of the great propagandist Marcelo H. del Pilar, which has now been converted into a park. Gertrudis Macapugay was related by blood to Marcelo H. and that is why there are a few Marcelos along the line, including my husband.

Lola Maria ("Iyang") had large, soulful eyes with drooping lids, dark lashes and thick eyebrows. Her hair was curly and her skin creamy white. It was said that she was so beautiful, eyes would follow her wherever she went.

She married Francisco Fernando, of landed gentry, who was reputed to have supernatural powers because he once waited out a strong typhoon in a tiny hut in the middle of an open

field. The typhoon destroyed much of the town but Lolo Kikoy and the hut emerged unscathed. People were afraid of Kikoy, they called him a *maton*. He was so determined to win Lola Iyang that he would sit on her stairs with a cane all day so that no other suitors dared approach.

Maria married Kikoy in 1885 when she was about 18. She gave birth to five boys in succession. Each one must have been breastfed for there were yet no feeding bottles. Or Pamper. Or Cerelac. It surely was a difficult chore to be a mother then and, on top of it all, she was married to this humorless guy.

Bulacan in the 1880s, especially on the street where Marcelo H. del Pilar lived, must

for whom he wrote special "novenas" and "prayers" such as: "Amo naming nasa kumbento ka, sumpain ang ngalan mo, gitlin ang leag mo..." Young boys led by Gregorio del Pilar distributed these "novenas" during the fiestas, at the church door and in the cockpit.

Hatred

Del Pilar's hatred of the friars began when his oldest brother Toribio, a priest, was found with a letter from Padre Burgos and thrown in the Malolos jail. Later removed from prison, his hands were tied with a rope attached to the reins of a horse. With soldiers on either side of him, Padre Toribio was paraded on the street walking from Malolos to Bulacan.

The stricken Marcelo witnessed this, and approached the *guardia civil* to request that Toribio go up their house to bless their mother who was ill. The request was ignored. Farther down the street, a young female relative waited with a glass of water. This, too, was denied. (These types of occurrences were common during the Spanish regime.)

Del Pilar had many visitors to his home in San Nicolas, Bulacan. Some were clients (he was a sought-after *abogado de campanilla*), and some, his friends, most of whom were personalities of the revolution (read, coconspirators). Guests stayed in Bulacan for a day or even a week since travel was often long and arduous. The whole genteel town was related in some way or another and went out of its way to entertain Del Pilar's guests.

One time it was Antonio Luna who came to visit with his brother, Juan Luna. (It is of record that the brothers often traveled together.) They came all the way from Batangas on horseback and stayed a few days. Antonio was always in a closed-door huddle with Marcelo H. in the book-lined library while Juan Luna wandered on a horse all over town, looking for nice views to sketch. Little boys followed him about, peering over his shoulder at his drawing pad. Sometimes he would

MARIA/C4



"LA BULAKEÑA" in the Malacañang Museum

Who was the mysterious model of Juan Luna in the Filipino Mona Lisa, 'La Bulakeña'?

have been in such ferment. Plans for a revolution were coming to a head. Maria Rodrigo lived in the house in front of Marcelo H. del Pilar, her uncle. Down the street lived her cousin, Goyo (Gregorio del Pilar, known later as the "Boy General").

Marcelo H. del Pilar was a lawyer, a nationalist whom historians consider at par with Rizal. Like Rizal and Lopez Jaena, his triumvirate, Del Pilar was not for wrecking the establishment but for peaceful reforms from the Spanish government. He was the formulator of the Filipino reform demands through his activist paper, *La Solidaridad*. He was Plaridel, the great organizer of the Propaganda Movement, first in Bulacan and Malolos, and then in Madrid.

Del Pilar was particularly mad at the friars

A PEKAS-FREE PHILIPPINES WITH



From as far north as Baguio to as far south as Davao, the common problem of dark patches, skin discoloration, dark spots or pekas on many Filipina faces is steadily becoming a thing of the past, largely due to the first oral treatment for pekas — Pynocare 40 Actisome.

Celebrating its first year in the Philippines, Pynocare 40 Actisome has gone around the Philippines over the last 12 months through the "Pekas-Free Filipina" mall activation tour to allow more Filipinas to discover for themselves the wonders of pekas-free skin.

As part of Mega We Care's initiative, it will continue to visit malls in other parts of the archipelago to bring to more women this trusted and reliable brand in Southeast Asia backed up by:

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- And over 200,000 women all over Southeast Asia enjoying the benefits of pekas-free skin

Vicky Batu, Benita Vinluan, Eva Ducat and Flordeliza Pamplona of Metro Manila were among the first wave of satisfied Filipinas who are now enjoying glowing pekas-free skin!

Be one of the Pekas-Free Filipinas!

The bandwagon of satisfied Pynocare users continue to grow as more and more women from all over the Philippines are discovering the secret to Pekas-Free skin!

"Sun exposure and use of cosmetics over the last seven years caused my pekas. After taking Pynocare, the discoloration all over my body lightened by 70% and became smoother! I am satisfied with the results."

- Adela Hipolito, a 46-year-old businesswoman and Pynocare user of 8 weeks

"I've been using Pynocare for a month now and I am very satisfied with the results. The changes I have seen on my face have convinced me to continue using Pynocare."

- Rosanna Ocampo, a 46-year-old housewife, Pynocare user of 4 weeks

"I play golf a lot and I've been suffering from Melasma for 5 years now, as a result of excess sun exposure. I tried topical creams but struggled with the recurring condition and felt that it was a waste of money. Now that I am using Pynocare, I am satisfied with the lightening and reduction."

- Joyce Fukuda, a 44-year-old golfer, Pynocare user of 4 weeks

"I have had melasma for the last five years as a result of excessive use of astringents and direct exposure to the sun. Since I started using Pynocare, I've noticed my cheeks have cleared up considerably. People around me have started noticing it too."

- Adela Pasicolan, a 34-year-old Assistant Branch Manager, Pynocare user of 3 months

"I discovered Pynocare during the Pekas-Free Filipina Mall Tour here in Cebu. Since then, I have been using the product and observed that my melasma spots started to lighten. I'm happy with the results."

- Jenny Chua Chan, a 48-year-old Bank Employee and Pynocare user of 3 months



Adela Hipolito, 46, Businesswoman



Rosanna Ocampo, 46, Housewife



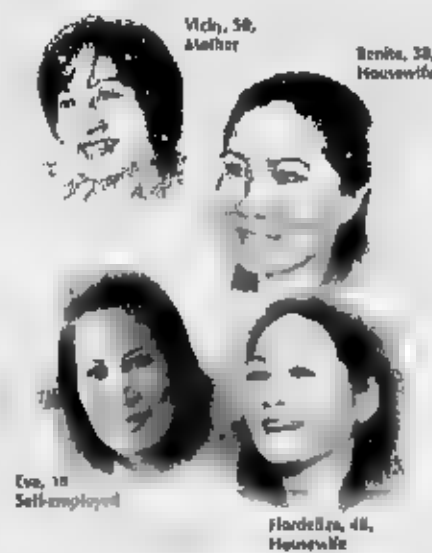
Joyce Fukuda, 44, Golfer



Adela Pasicolan, 34, Assistant Branch Manager



Jenny Chua Chan, 48, Bank Employee



Catch the Pekas-Free Filipinas Tour in major malls nationwide:

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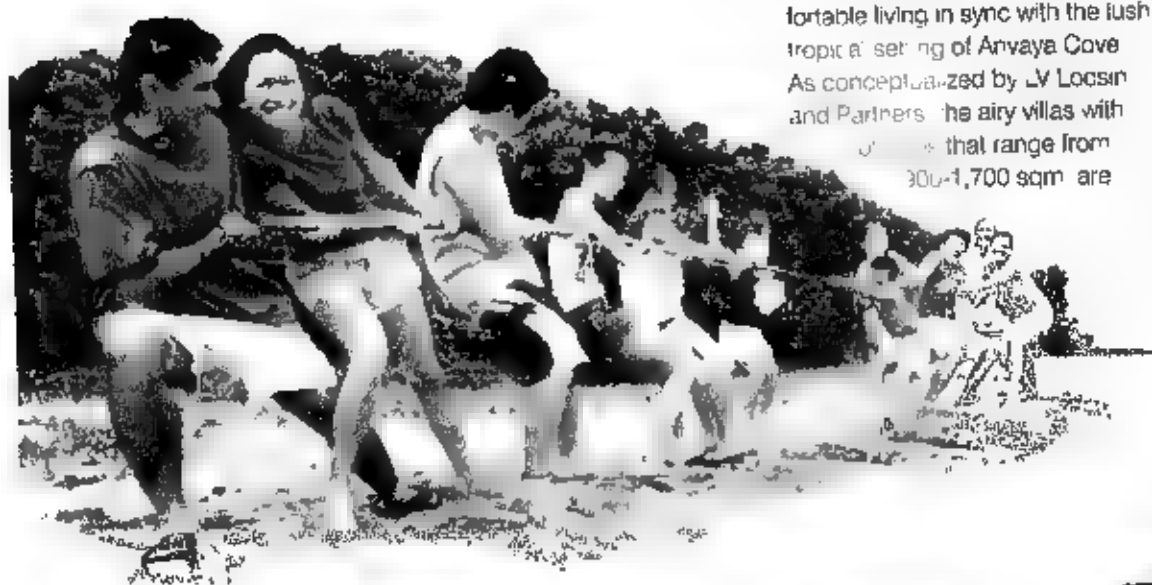
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The Seaside Villas: Luxury dictated by nature



Effortless luxury in one of the least spoiled, natural sanctuaries in Northern Luzon is the striking proposition being offered by The Seaside Villas, a prime community of only 17 units within Anvaya Cove. The 320-hectare development in Morong, Bataan is the maiden leisure project of Ayala Land Premier (ALP) that is set to become one of the most prestigious and exclusive neighborhoods for second homes.

Inspired by highly acclaimed tropical resorts in Asia and Hawaii that intrinsically harmonize with the environment, The Seaside Villas allows gracious and comfortable living in sync with the lush tropical setting of Anvaya Cove. As conceptualized by LV Locsin and Partners, the airy villas with floor-to-ceiling glass walls that range from 300-1,700 sqm are

intimately related to the panorama of sea and lush rolling terrain in this stretch of the Bataan coast.

According to Marivic E. Anonuevo, Ayala Land vice president and ALP head of Lifestyle and Leisure Communities Group, only 17 units will be built in this community set to become the address of choice of discriminating homeowners seeking a second home. "The market for these kinds of developments exists across Asia but homeowners prefer to limit the scale of these communities," she says.

Each home consists of two pavilions, both single-level structures laid out over a deck with a plunge pool. The Social Pavilion includes the living and dining room, den and toilet and bath with spaces flowing into one another and spilling over to the deck. Geared for gatherings with the extended family as well as sunset cocktails with colleagues, this Pavilion accommodates easy entertaining and convivial get-togethers. It also thoughtfully includes a fully-fitted kitchen, utility and other necessary working areas. In case of inclement weather or when the humidity becomes overbearing,

air-conditioning has been provided for all the rooms including the kitchen.

The best way for guests and homeowners alike to cool off quickly, nevertheless, is through the plunge pool, a welcome amenity found in each of the villas. Even better, the villas are a short stroll away from the Anvaya beach cove, one of the most friendly environments for swimmers and beachcombers in Northern Luzon with its 1.2 km. coastline.

To allow privacy to the privileged homeowners of The Seaside Villas, the bedrooms, which likewise all have air-conditioning, are located in a separate pavilion. The bedrooms are focused on views of the sea or the lush foliage to heighten the experience of being in a nature reserve. Observes Ms. Anonuevo, "When one is in touch with nature, it is much easier to be in touch with one's self." Each of the villas has also been envisioned as a personal sanctuary.

True to the developer's promise to provide effortless luxury, the exterior and interior details and finishes of The Seaside Villas have been selected for easy maintenance. Natural stone and wood

details are used in keeping with the rustic surroundings. Moreover, maintenance, landscape, housekeeping and other services have been made available in response to the request of clients who seek refuge in family time, the natural beauty of Anvaya Cove and its promise of endless summers.

In addition, planners have drawn extensively from the needs and experiences of villa homeowners in Asia, which would otherwise be alien to the private individual outing up a beach property on his own. "Like all other Ayala Land projects, The Seaside Villas will be backed by our long track record in building homes that appreciate in value over time," notes Anonuevo.

Ayala Land Premier (ALP), the new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land providing security, ultimate comfort, and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, ALP ensures exclusivity and value over time.



Ms. Marivic Anonuevo with her family and friend



The Cronin family and ALP Property Specialist Reggie de Luna as they partake on a sumptuous lunch prepared at the Marketing Pavilion

A taste of the Anvaya Cove experience

The soothing sounds of birds and wind chimes are likely to make a lasting impression on chosen guests invited this summer to experience Anvaya Cove, the Ayala Land Premier seaside residential resort in Morong, Bataan. Most likely to become a prestigious second address of choice, the 320-hectare property offers wooded, rolling terrain that slopes down to a charming 1.2 km private beach cove. Proof of its unspoiled state, the Anvaya Cove shoreline continues to serve as refuge for pawikan hatchlings part of the year.

Prospective homeowners invited to the place during the Open House last year attest that the visit is a refreshing opportunity to commune with nature. A leisurely two-and-a-half hour drive from Metro Manila, the sight of shafts of sunlight through the lush foliage of the adjoining Subic Bay Development serves as a foretaste of the Anvaya Cove experience.

At the impressive tropical Asian-inspired marketing pavilion, guests are encouraged to take in other sounds and sights with the aid of binoculars: the gentle curve of the cove, the calm waters of

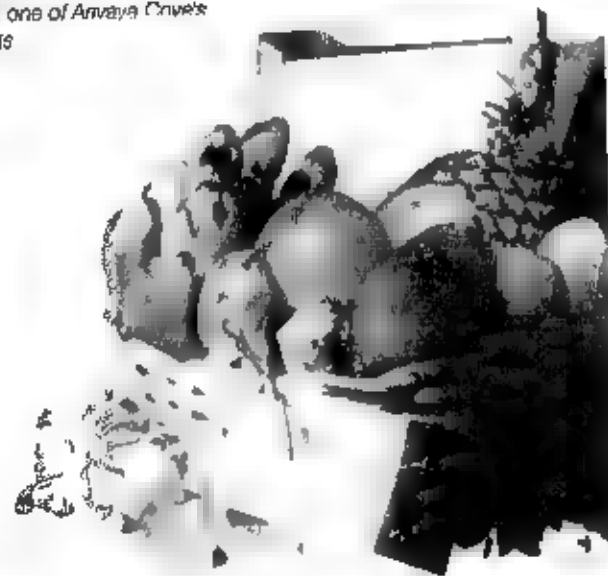
Subic Bay at one's feet, the spectacular views of the Siaguin and Bataan mountain ranges, incessant bird talk within the wooded property.

Families are now welcome to have a taste of the Anvaya Cove experience. Organized by Ayala Land Premier sales executives who are ready to respond to their guests' every need, bookings are made and visits are planned as intimate events for families seeking a place to spend time together. After a gracious lunch, tours of the various phases of the community and the spectacular The Seaside Villas follow. Guests may opt for a massage and a sales briefing but in general are left pretty much to decide how they want to spend the rest of the day. Whatever they choose, they leave the place knowing that Anvaya Cove will live up to its promise of family time and endless summers.

Invitations to visit Anvaya Cove are issued by Ayala Land Premier sales executives. To register your interest in Anvaya Cove, please call (632) 728-7000 or (632) 892-3933 or e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph.



The Soler family, one of Anvaya Cove's first onsite guests

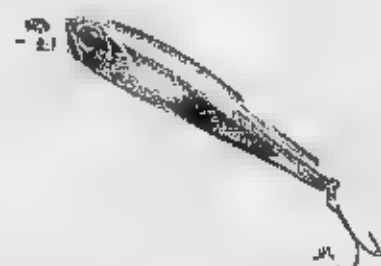


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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Maria joins the revolution

turn around and sketch the boys instead. One day, around 1883 or 1884, goes the town legend, Juan Luna spotted the pretty Maria, who was 15 or 16 then, in the house of Del Pilar. He must have found her exceptionally good-looking because he requested that she go home and change into a Maria Clara, saying he wanted to paint her. He made several pencil sketches of Maria. The portrait in oil was finished much later, in Luna's studio, in Calle Alix in Sampaloc in 1895.

That is the famed "La Bulakeña," now hanging in Malacañang. Like the "Mona Lisa," the identity of its subject has been claimed by several quarters, including First Lady Imelda Marcos, who said it was one of her ancestors. Not content with mere conjecture, Benita Marasigan Santos (now 88), granddaughter of Marcelo H. del Pilar, did active investigation in the '70s on "La Bulakeña."

Digging up the past

Benita, Mila Enriquez of the Bulacan Historical Commission and my sister-in-law, Dr. Asuncion "Nin" Fernando, went to Bulacan to interview its old residents who were asked to remember the events of their childhood and what they heard older relatives say. The trio dug for old photos and church records more than a century old. The visit of Juan Luna "who was drawing Iyang" was well remembered by Maria's first cousin, Angelina Rodrigo, who lived with her in the same house. So was Juan Luna remembered, by another interviewee, emerging from the Del Pilar stable on a horse. The young boys who followed him around, by then very old men, remembered the visit of "Don Marcelo's friend," too.

There was no existing photograph of Maria to compare the painting with, but by sleuthing, the three found a group picture of Maria's two brothers and two sisters in their advanced age. They all looked like Maria. If features are indeed a clue, then add to that the striking resemblance of trademark eyes and bushy eyebrows to present-day Rodrigos—the late Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, whose father is the younger brother of Maria, his daughter Ditas, and her cousins Penina and Dodo Ayuyao. "And of course," says Benita, "the subject had to be a native of Bulacan that's why Juan Luna entitled it 'La Bulakeña.'"

Why was she not identified by Juan Luna? (Maybe he didn't remember her name.) Why was it not painted in oil until 10 years later? (Maybe he discovered he liked his sketches of her only then. It is a minor painting.)

According to Benita, the painting passed on to the estate of Andres Luna de San Pedro, only son of Juan Luna. When he died, the Philippine government acquired the painting (or maybe something else happened). It has been displayed in Malacañang since 1957. After the Edsa revolution, when Malacañang was turned into a museum and opened to the public, the painting began to get attention. There were many speculations on who the subject was. Of course, the combination of interviews, bits and pieces of information and conjectures put forth by Benita Marasigan Santos in her '70s article entitled "La Bulakeña," proves nothing airtight. And it is not the interest of this article to enter that bit of debate. It simply wants to bring to light more information on Maria Rodrigo whom most Bulakeños, just incidentally, believe to be the Fernando grandmother.

Women warriors

One day, when the youngest of her five sons was 4 years old, the spirited Maria Rodrigo actively joined the revolution. She rode her husband's horse and, it was said, she never rode a horse side-saddle, but astride, like a man. She joined the Bulacan brigade of Katipuneros to be the courier of her cousin Gregorio del Pilar. That day they were leaving their homes in Bulacan for the field where they were to merge with other brigades. Many women, too, were going to war. They pitched camp wherever they could and were welcomed in every town. General Goyo must have been very young then because he died at 22 in the retreat to Ilocos, at Tirad Pass. Maria was and probably 29 or 30. First, they were fighting the Spaniards and, in a matter of days, the Americans were the new enemy. The declaration of the Philippine Republic in Malolos, complete with flags, carriages and banquet had been cruelly ignored.

Women in the revolution served mostly as couriers but it was a very dangerous occupation. There was no other means of

reporting news from the field to the towns, the different troops and the commanders. The women hid the messages knotted into their hair or under their Maria Clara skirts, or sewn at the hem, or they delivered them orally. Some women carried a bolo, under their skirt, moving it behind or in front to avoid detection. There were also secret visual messages that served as warning, like letting down one's hair or turning around one's taps.

In a rumor cited in a written document by a Salvador Estrella, member of the Dimabanga chapter of Kakarong Silu, Maria Rodrigo was being suspected by some insurgents of being a double agent. They called her Mariang Bankera because she often slipped into the Spanish quarters trying to get information. ("Bankera" also meant "namamangka sa dalawang tlog")

The last reported sighting of Maria Rodrigo as Katipunera was of her riding a horse to Bulacan after the fierce battle at Calumpit. The encounter had weakened the American forces greatly and led to the death in Kingwa (now Plandil) of Colonel Stotsenberg, their commander. Gen. Gregorio del Pilar feared a fierce retaliation in his town. Maria was sent to warn the people to flee, which saved much of the populace. It is believed that she died after that mission, unable to rejoin her brigade in the mountains.

Of course, there were other women in the revolution (more prominent in history) but they had no marital ties to deal with. Trinidad Tecson, who went to battle wearing the male Katipunan uniform,

was reputed to be a tomboy. Gabriela Silang was revenging the killing of her husband, Diego Silang. Gregoria de Jesus was the widow of Andres Bonifacio. But Maria Rodrigo? *Kababang tao, may mga anak, sumama sa rebolusyon!* Her relatives, her townmates, kept silent to protect her, to protect themselves.

Silence

After WWII, when researches on women in the revolution were just beginning, it was difficult to extract anything from the conservative populace of Bulacan. It was the age of zipped mouths. When asked, the old women would make the sign of the cross and say, "Naku, hija, delikadong bagay yan, huwag na nating pag-usapan." They refused to remember Loreto Lucero who had so disrespectfully slapped a *kura* for making advances at her. They kept secret the details of the shameful Sta. Isabel teachers who ran after and undressed a *kura* who was molesting them.

They were ashamed, too, of Doña Petronia de Enriquez for being an occasional jailbird. She was picked up and brought to prison every time there was an incident in town because she had three Katipunero sons. (She was allowed to take her maid with her, though.) And protective, too, and silent about Doña Marciana, wife of Marcelo H. del Pilar, who was demed confession and communion by the strict Augustinian parish priest of Bulacan. He would scold her and send her home. To keep up with her faith, Doña Marciana would go to Manila to confess and receive holy communion

in Tondo church.

And so, many simply turned Aglipayan or Masonic. Subversives and ex-communicants, moreover, could not be buried in the Catholic cemetery. That is why there were once occasional strange mausoleums standing in the middle of the rice fields of Bulacan.

After Maria Rodrigo Fernando left, my father-in-law, Antonio, and his brothers, José, Juan, Roque and Isaías, were forbidden to utter their mother's name in the house again. The five sons were farmed out to Maria's sisters and brothers who reared and gave all of them a good education. Two became doctors, one a lawyer, another an educator, another an engineer. Francisco Fernando remarried. The sons never used their mother's family name. They chose to be known not as Rodrigo Fernandos but as Sepulveda Fernandos, though who Sepulveda was never got figured out in this generation.

And so, that is the family secret. That Lola Iyang was able to turn around her anger at the women's lot in which she found herself trapped, to the real enemy. And that brave and beautiful Katipunera Maria was truly a feminist darling.

(With thanks to lawyer Benita M. Santos and Mila Enriquez for the information in this article. Incidentally, my bestseller, "The Last Full Moon," is available at Fully Booked, PowerBooks Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang, National Bookstore Shangri-La, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1 and Alabang, Metropolitan Museum, and Datelines in Cubao.)

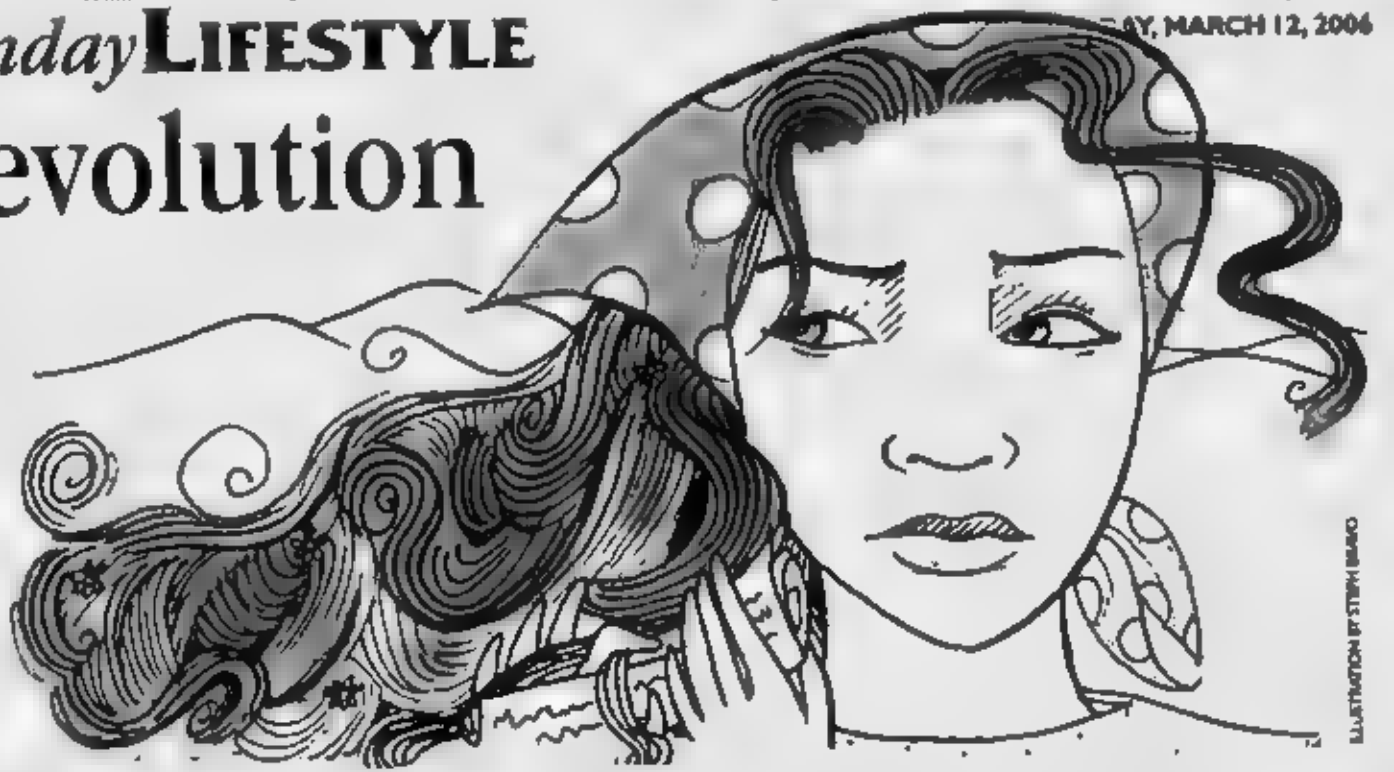


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH MARGO



ROBINSONS Galleria's West Wing facing Edsa will make access easier with the installation of escalators.

New season for west wing



TOYS R Us will open its first outlet in the Philippines at the fourth level.



ROBINSONS Galleria West Wing makeover focuses on form and function.

Robinsons Galleria is undergoing a major makeover that it hopes will attract whole families, not just individual shoppers

By Linda B. Bolido

THE WEST WING WILL BE reborn. No, not the canceled award-winning television series about a fictional American president and politics in the United States.

What is getting a major facelift to make it even more consumer-friendly and competitive is the Robinsons Galleria, a major Ortigas landmark fronted by the historic Edsa shrine.

The transformation planned for the flagship of the Robinsons malls is designed to make it a popular destination seven days a week for whole families. Redoing the West Wing, which is right on Edsa, will complete the mall's makeover that started with the renovation of the East Wing on the ADB Road side some three years ago. The whole project is expected to be completed last quarter of the year.

As explained by Cornelio "Nilo" S. Mapa Jr., general manager, commercial centers division, the mall has a strong weekday market being right smack in the middle of a major access road connecting Metro Manila to Rizal. "But we want people to stay longer and to attract families on

weekends," he said.

To achieve this goal, Galleria will regroup, relocate and reformat.

Mapa promised "more choices, exciting and unique retail formats and more dining options." Galleria aims to maintain its reputation for hosting establishments that offer goods and services that cannot be found elsewhere, even as it will launch premium labels.

Already set to open its first Philippine outlet at the fourth level of the mall is the American chain Toys R Us, a major component of Galleria's goal to be more child-friendly. The store which, as the name suggests, is a treasure trove of almost everything a child, regardless of his/her interests, can wish for, will anchor a group of entertainment/amusement places catering to kids.

Teens and young adults will have their own special corner on the same level.

The West Wing redevelopment will cover all four levels of the Edsa side, covering over 7,000 square meters. New food outlets and quaint cafes will dot areas with interactive exhibits and attractions.

With the installation of escalators,



WEST Wing's redesign aims to make shopping stress-free and relaxing.



THE SECOND level will have a totally new look as escalators will take people directly to the area.

tors at the Edsa side to bring people directly from street level to the second floor, a major overhaul of that part of the mall is in the works. Fashion-forward retailers like the United Kingdom-based Top Man and Dorothy Perkins will greet people as they enter the mall.

Despite anxiety generated in some mall management by the existence of retail outlets like 168 in Binondo, Mapa's not anticipating any major competition from places like those. He said Robinsons Galleria has enough unique and interesting components for people to stay loyal to it.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Always Asian

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

By a quiet garden /D2

Eric Paras' sense of design /D6

Woodsman to Hollywood /D8

Pachot Mapa surrounds herself and her family with her kind of things

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

PACHOT MAPA HAS A PASSION FOR THINGS old. Older than me, she jokingly remarks. A step into her home is like a journey into time. History is captured in interesting objects d'art that liberally fill her space. The two-story, six-bedroom 796-sq m home is very much like a showroom for her antique shop, Old Asia. And she is no minimalist.

"I like to have a lot of things," she says.

She has, in fact, a large closet full of knickknacks. Her home possessions are too many she has lost track of them. Lucky for her, she says, she has a staff of honest household help.

To keep her home beguiling to her frequent guests and to herself, Mapa changes the layout of her interiors as often as six times a year. When she does, she takes out some pieces from the closet to replace those that have already seen the sunlight. Nothing goes to waste, and each one is given its due space—and admiring audience—in time.

The only permanent fixtures are the leather sofa set and narra coffee table in the living area that are merely rearranged to complement the new décor. Everything else moves from room to room or goes straight to the storage. And thus she does quickly in half a day with the help of her experienced staff from Old Asia.

Her keen eye for detail has made her meticulously selective of her home articles. Often she would first take photos of her layout concepts, a blueprint of sorts, before deciding what works. If she runs out of ideas, she turns to her son, Jojo, an interior designer, for advice.

A home, she says, must be

practical and elegant to suit the lifestyle of the homeowners. And the Mapa home is as elegant as soft silk that gracefully glides over the body. After all, fine taste is second skin to this antique lover.

Imposing

Upon entrance, guests are immediately enthralled at the foyer by the imposing 16-ft mirror framed against an antique Chinese board. The board, she says, bears Chinese calligraphy at the back. To make it useful, Mapa had the mirror installed.

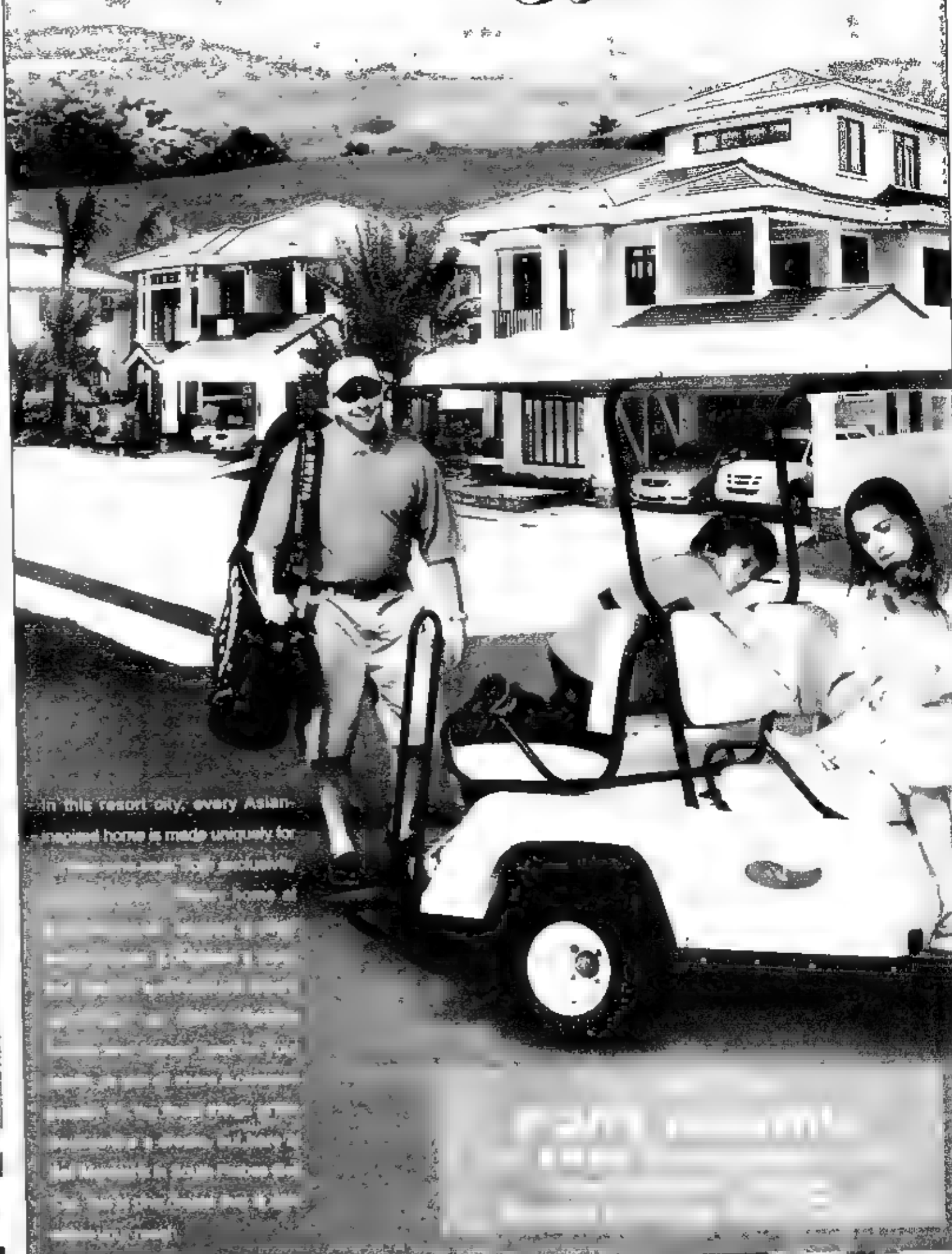
Just above the mirror is an old Indian chandelier. Where candles used to flicker in this old-fashioned lighting system, she had them replaced with modern electric bulbs for convenience. Stretched out below the mirror is a small, 200-year-old Chinese iron bathtub, adorned with greens and blooms arranged by florist Jaime Santiago.

A few steps away is an old Filipino altar table now turned console table, with the sculpture of the goddess Kuan Yin, from Thailand, and silver bowls filled with flowers from China.

The bedroom of Mapa's mother has been converted into a lovely den, its old charm palpable as the aged furniture that fills the

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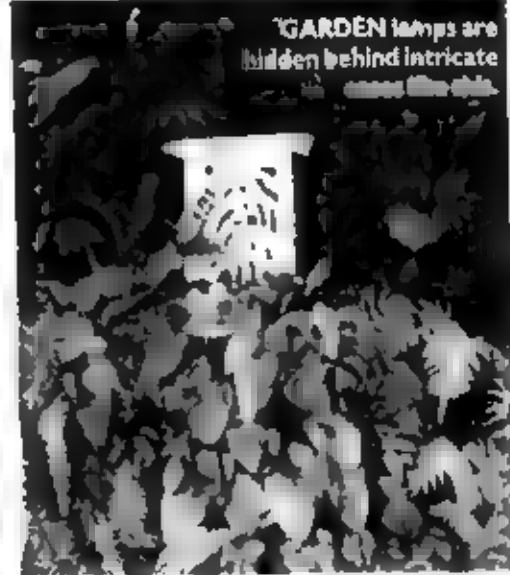
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DINING ROOM. The long table is perfect for the traditional family feast. "My grandchildren would sit through dinner with me, and I would teach them proper table etiquette," Mapa says.

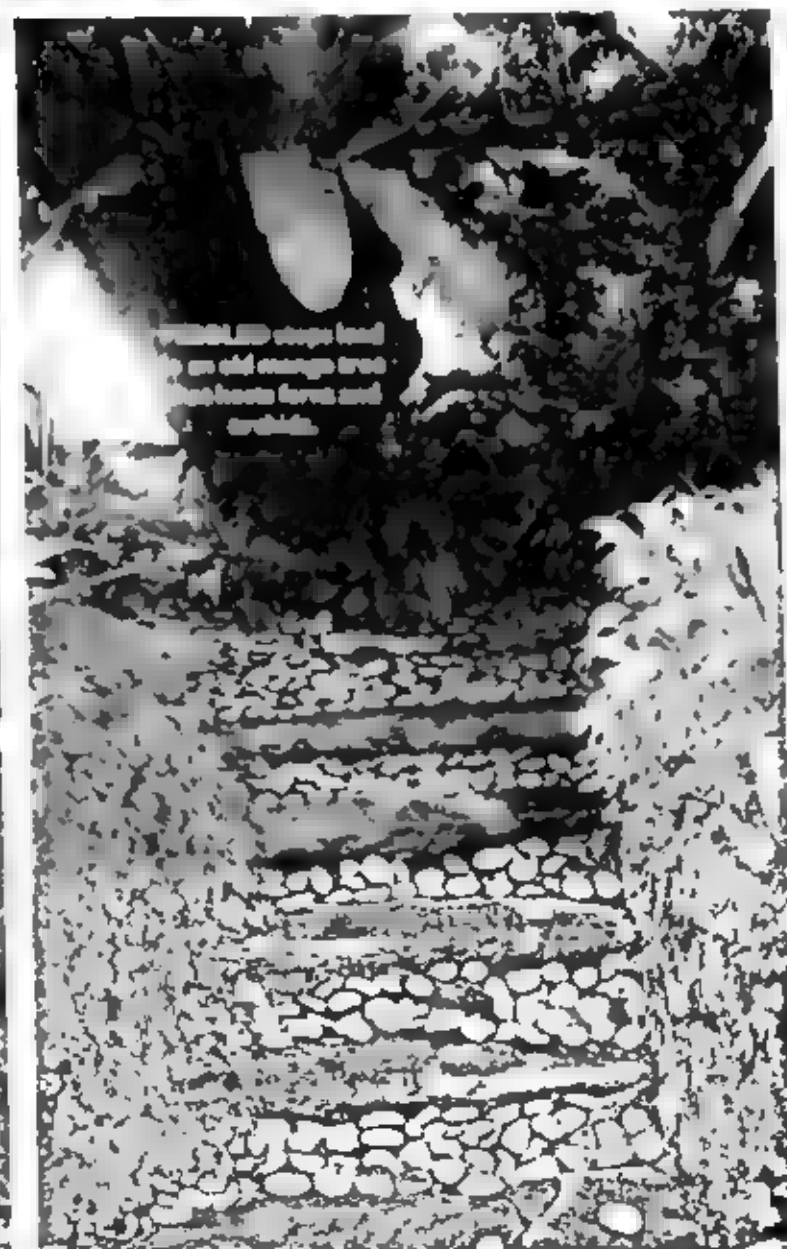


AMONG THE TOUCHES of color are these coral blossoms.



GARDEN lamps are hidden behind intricate moss-like shrubs.

THE SMOKEY-LAVENDER hue of the flowers in the garden is a nod to the color of the house's thatched roof.



WILDLIFE steps lead to an old mango tree with hosts of birds and orchids.

In strategic places are various stone ornaments, Indonesian and Chinese statues, stylized garden lamps and lahar pieces

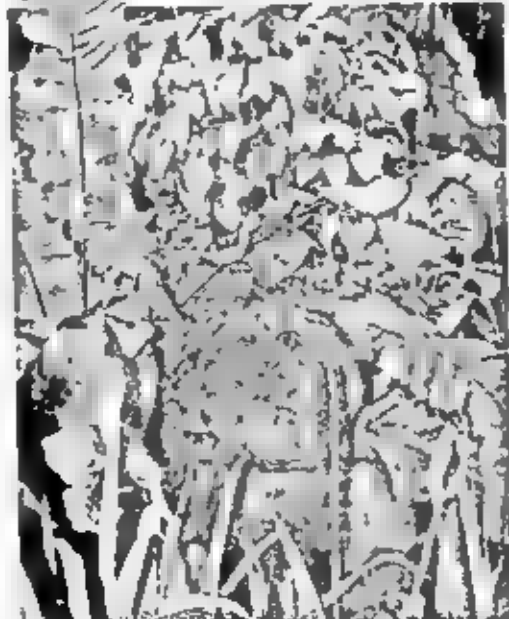
Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Betty Johnson

BROKEN INTO ITS COMPONENTS, the place may seem to have little to brag about in terms of garden variety. The ferns, bamboos, palms, heliconias (cousins of the banana), and aglaonemas are pretty much standard fare in most gardens.

But massed together and cleverly matched and mixed, with unusual accents added and an occasional brilliant bloom stuck in the middle to break a monochromatic collection, the plants have resulted in a garden that has impressed even a fastidious well-known stylist.

The lady of the house, who started assembling this garden four or five years ago, said she was not into creating a showcase with exotic, rare and expensive varieties. All she wanted was a simple, practical, low-maintenance garden with her favorite heliconia tucked into a clump of greenery here and there. The result is a belt of lush, hardy, tropical plants girding a sprawling house.

Though she sought the assistance of a professional landscaper when she started the



A BALL made of lahar is almost lost in a sea of green.

project, primarily to build the stone bases for the various plants, the garden is pretty much her handiwork. And, under her direction, it continues to change in subtle ways as she adds new plants, relocate old ones or install new accessories.

Old fruit trees that came with the property anchor air plants, ferns and a few orchids.

Scattered in strategic places are various stone ornaments, Indonesian and Chinese statues, stylized garden lamps and lahar pieces—everything now nicely covered in moss so that they look almost ancient.

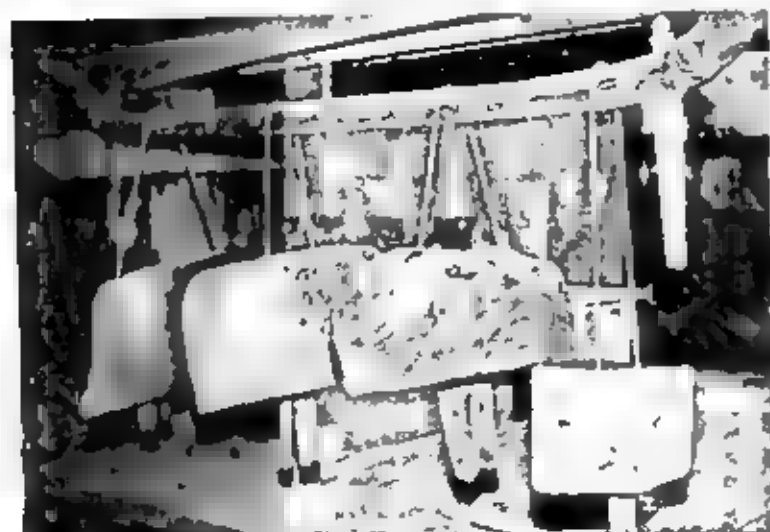
An Indonesian traditional house of teak is the focal point in the back. Old and large cow bells hang from bars under its floor. Almost opposite it, in front of the house, is a wall-less bahay kubo where handymen would often enjoy a siesta.

Another prominent accent in the back garden is an Indonesian banca, its sides filled with intricate carvings. The banca, mounted on two wooden stands, currently serves as a container for some potted plants, though the owner said she was still thinking about some other use for it.

A full-time gardener makes sure the plants and the carabao grass on the lawn have sufficient water every day, that everything is neat and trim, and dried leaves are gathered up to go into a compost heap that produces the fer-



SHELTERED by an awning, three Chinese sculptures manage to look never less than the other pieces.



LARGE traditional oriental bells hang under the floor of the Indonesian hut.



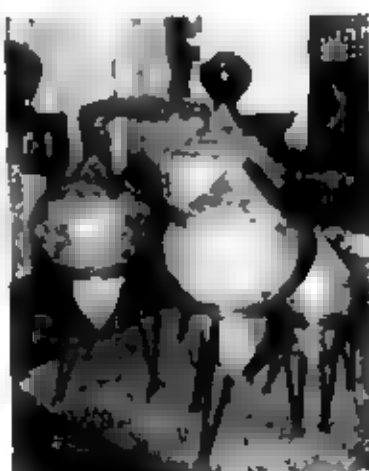
AN INDOONESIAN banca temporarily serves as a planter.



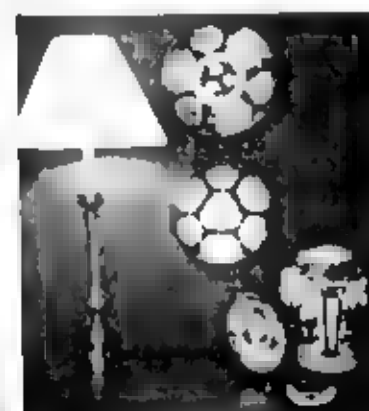
A BLOOMING ground orchid relieves the monochromatic color scheme of moss-covered statues, bamboo and fern.



KAMAGONG chairs guard the double French doors that lead to the garden. The old chest in the middle is decorated with antique statuettes of San Antonio and Magdalena.



WEAPONS OF DECOR: Tops from Mindanao used to slay wild animals in the olden days



IMANI COLLECTION. Layout is essential to create balance and function to a space.



LAP OF LUXURY. This old Chinese opium bed, dolled up with handwoven silk throw pillows from just about everywhere, feels right at home in the living room.



FRESH. The Contreras garden set adds warmth to the lush environment.



SIZE MATTERS. The 7-kg sterling silver holds anything from beer to champagne to flowers.

land into napkin holders. "You can make an item functional as long as you don't ruin the aesthetics," Mapa says. The double French doors open to the garden where a delightful four-seater Contreras sculpture is perfect for afternoon meriendas. Collecting antiques is a costly hobby, but Mapa says it is a good investment. "I have been living like this for quite a while now. I do not find my home extravagant or showy. I think it's very livable," she says.

E-mail the author at ajamora@inquirer.com.ph

Asian

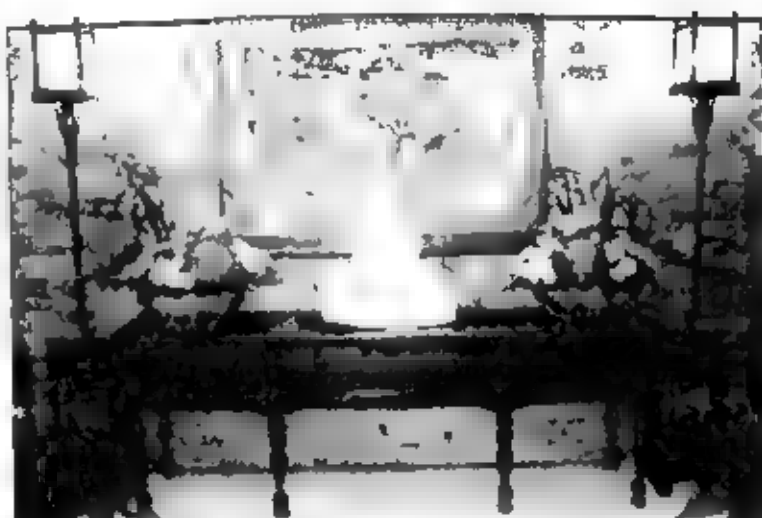
From page D1

space. There are the rare Chinese mini chairs for the grandchildren, antique Filipino water jars from the south, a Chinese tea table of chicken feather wood, a Korean rice chest. On the coffee table is a fascinating collection of big, heavy tops from Mindanao inlaid with silver. Mapa says these tops were weapons used to slay large wild animals during hunting trips.

From the den, a door opens to the living area. Up against a wall is a Chinese opium bed dolled up with throw pillows acquired from just about everywhere in the world.

"My grandchildren might find it enjoyable to play around in that area," she says.

Every Sunday is family day, she says. All children and grandchildren are expected to partake of the traditional family weekend feast. Mapa, however, is firm about the rules. No horsing around and no touching of any object. Thankfully, the young ones have grown accustomed to the delicate articles of Mapa's very Asian world and they behave accordingly.



TRANQUILITY. The goddess Kuan Yin, from Thailand, sits on an old Filipino altar table.

The leather sofa set, located in front of the opium bed, has a long slab of narra coffee table by Os-mundo Esquerro. On it are a couple of Indian hurricane lamps, crystals from Sweden, a sizeable silver pumpkin ornament and an early sculpture of a monk in rest.

A prized possession is the large 92.5-percent sterling silver bowl that weighs in at a hefty 7 kg and

is worth almost P500,000. Depending on need and occasion, the pricey bowl is used to hold champagnes, beers, wines or flowers. It is Mapa's dictum that a home should never be without flowers.

Mapa likes mixing the old with the new, hence the modern crystals strategically placed alongside antique, old objects. Coordination

is very important, she says, that each layout is useful as well. A coffee table, for instance, must also have room for platters when serving canapés to visitors or pica-pica to grandchildren.

For a relaxing breakfast, Mapa and her retired husband, fondly known as Toto, prefer to have food served in the atrium. Designed by landscape artist Ponce Veridiano, the wrought-iron garden set at the center is surrounded by greens, a mini-waterfall and lighted floating candles.

The dining area has the most expensive item in Mapa's home: a 12-seater, P1 million dining table made of solid narra framed by balayong. It was obtained from an antique dealer in the Quezon Province.

Celadon

The dinnerware is set in blue celadon instead of the usual green. The Christoffle flarware is from France, the fruit bowl decorated with flower arrangement, from Turkey. Creativity takes over as incense holders from China are transformed into candleholders, and betel nut holders from Thai-

Wood

From page D8

Filipino-American and proud of it. He was exploring the possibility of retiring someday in the Philippines two years ago when he hit upon the idea of expanding his business across the Pacific.

"Retiring doesn't really mean selling my business and living here for good," says Alejo. "I just want to spend more time here and at the same time realize my dream of becoming an international company."

Environmentalists need not worry. No narra trees and other fast-disappearing varieties of local hardwood will be felled in the process, as Floor Station and its partners log primarily from the forests of Brazil and Canada.

These companies reportedly adhere to sustainable development and

responsible logging by replacing trees they've cut.

"When you choose a hardwood flooring company, you're not just investing in the future of your home but also in the future of the planet," says Alejo. "You should know how the wood was harvested and how it is to be replaced."

Filipinos, he adds, are now designing on a global scale. That's why Floor Station has taken it upon itself to educate professionals as well as consumers on the importance of sustainability and better—and often cheaper—alternatives to local hardwood.

Long warranty

Alejo stands by the quality of his floors, so much so that they come with a 25-year warranty. To ensure proper installation, people at Floor Station do the work themselves. An

American expert from the company's LA office recently visited Manila to train his Filipino colleagues.

Floor Station is reportedly the only provider of wood and laminated flooring in the Philippines that uses laser equipment during installation. Apart from eliminating dirt and noise, such precision-cutting tools ensure quality and consistency during and after the installation process.

It may be the company's first foray in a country as hot and as humid as the Philippines, but people behind it have had plenty of practice while working on projects in tropical places like Florida and Brazil.

While Alejo deals most of the time with interior designers and architects, there were a few times he was privileged enough to talk directly with a number of famous clients.

One of his most memorable encounters was with one of America's living legends. Streisand dropped by his LA showroom four months ago to discuss her flooring requirements over tea with Alejo.

The superstar was having one of her houses (there are eight structures) in her sprawling Malibu estate renovated after a particularly nasty mudslide ruined the property's oak floor last year. She wanted an exact replica of the original floor, which included a Chinese-inspired meditation.

"She's so humble and unassuming," says Alejo of Streisand. "We're now working on the barn room, which is actually an entire house. We had to take all the mud off before we could start replacing the oak floor with a new one."

And the work perhaps includes the ground Streisand walks on in the powder room.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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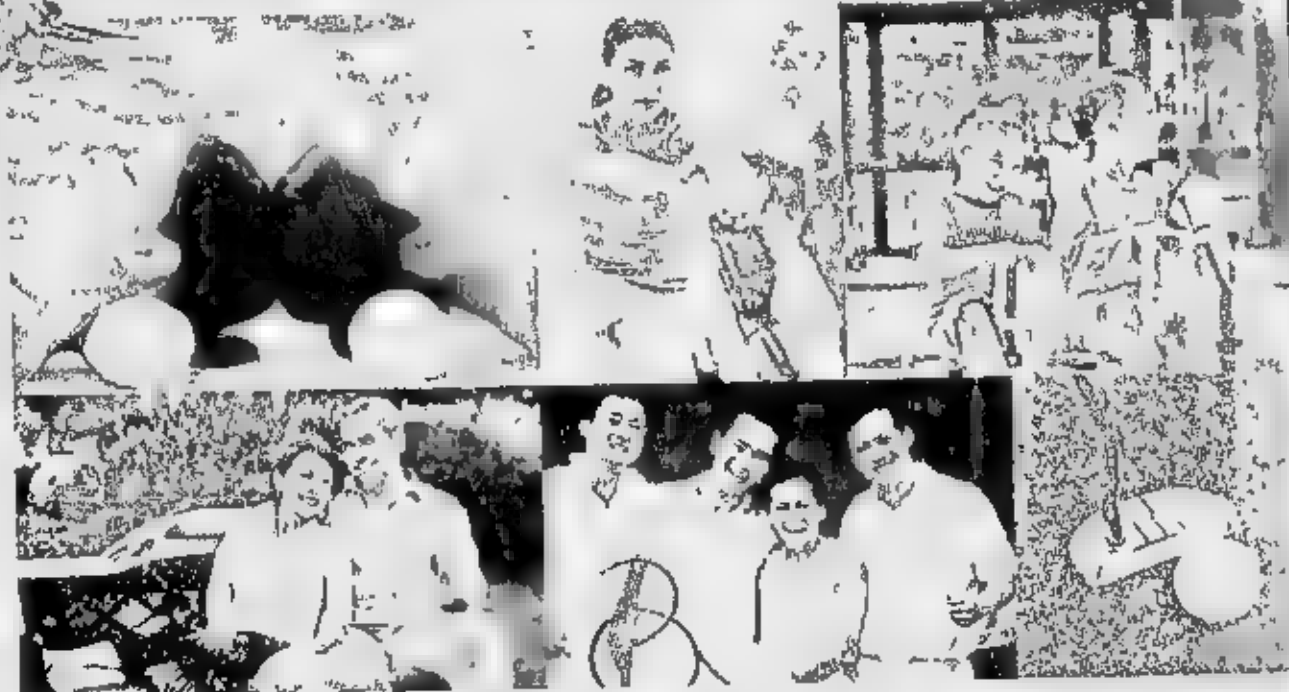
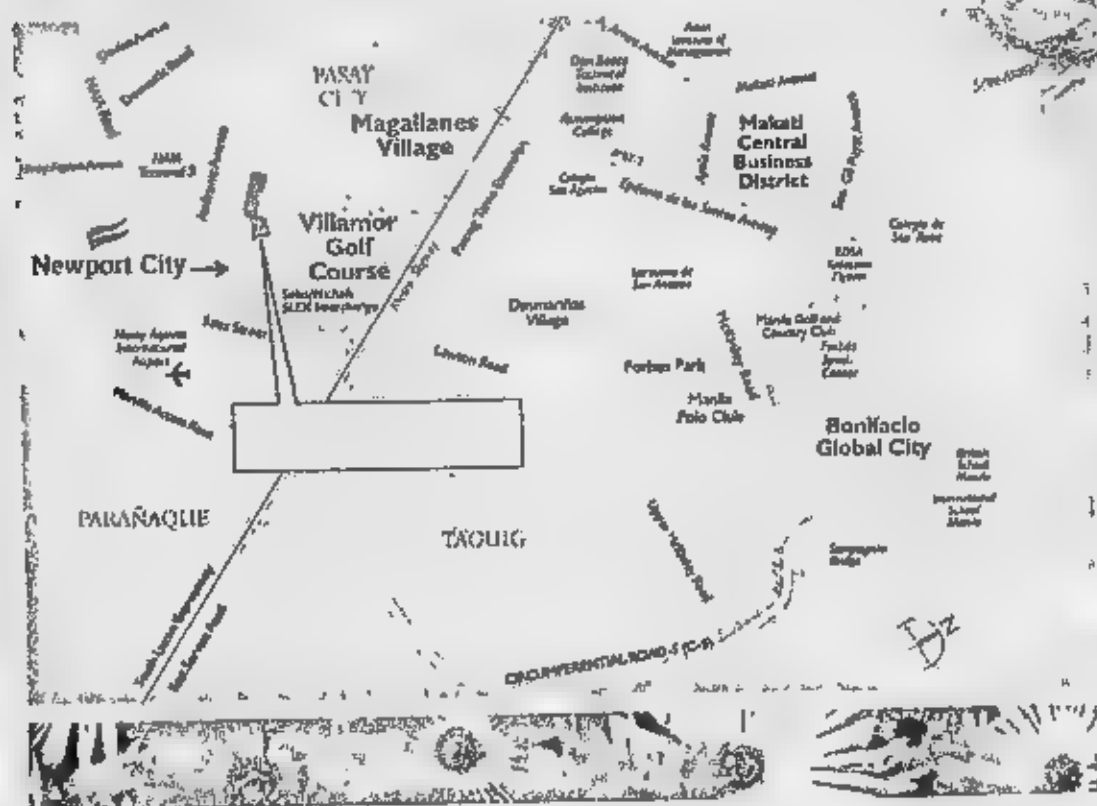
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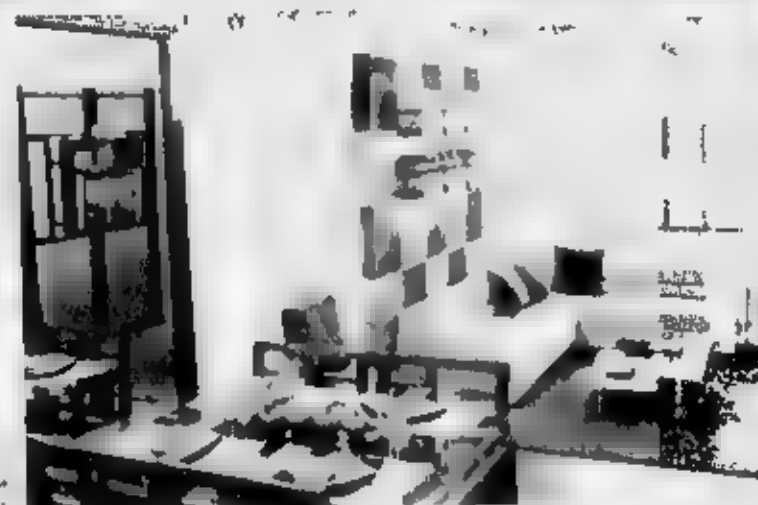


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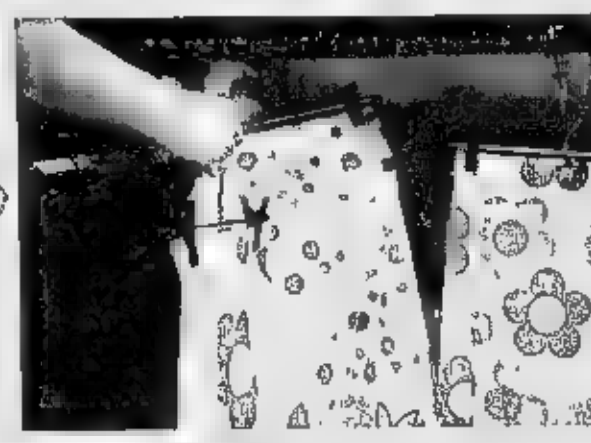


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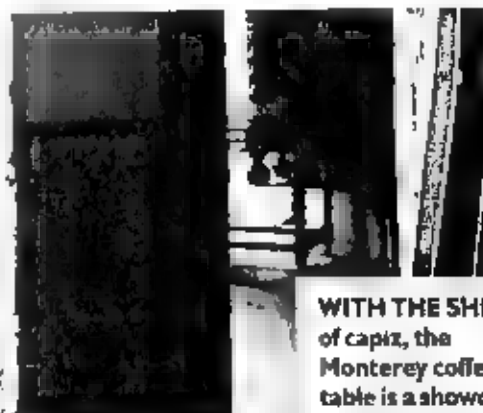
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Property Holdings, Inc.



IN OFF-WHITE finish, the Gavan four-poster bed is simplicity with a touch of Old-World grandness.



WITH THE SHINE of capiz, the Monterey coffee table is a showcase of exotic gemilina wood patterns.



BLACK iron round bars, in hourglass shape, make up the Namur accent table, a study in symmetry.

Sense

By AA Patawaran
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

A CHAIR IS JUST A CHAIR, but in its rightful place in a room, it forms an inalienable part of your living or working space. After all, what is a home without chairs? What is an office without a place to sit on behind a desk? In some instances, what is a park without a bench?

This is where Eric T. Paras makes his point as a product designer. His designs are made in the context of the space in which they are likely to be, which is why his showroom is no less than his own house.

The house is located in a cluster of old houses, including A11 gallery, where Paras' collaborative works with Vienna Furniture's Randy Viray were recently on display.

It helps that Paras has spent 10 years of his young life mastering interior design. "I am really just an accidental furniture designer," he admits. "I was only asked by a friend to do a few pieces for a show in Mimosas and that was how it all started."

It might have been destiny. His Prada cabinet in fire-engine red, one of the bestsellers of his maiden collection three years ago, has launched a new career for the interior designer. Still, in coming up with product design, Paras keeps his first love in mind, always creating in the context of actual homes, offices, or even gardens.

"I don't like it when any of my pieces looks perfect in the showroom and out of place once the buyer takes it home," he says.

No wonder there is something very homey about his recent works. His collaboration with Viray, which he calls Modern Nostalgia, has all the European sensibilities of chipped wood and rain-drenched finishes. Always considering of his end-users, Paras attributes the character

To Eric Paras, gardener, interior designer and furniture maker, all creative efforts are a work of balance



ERIC Paras

acter of his current collection to the demands of buyers in Europe, particularly Spain and France, where Vienna Furniture markets its products.

Equilibrium

"I try not to be the star of my work," explains Paras. "I always keep in mind that it is others who will live with it once I put it out there in the market."

But this market-oriented designer has his own distinct spin on things. His keen observation of design evolution keeps him abreast with the latest in trends and technology. Defining himself as "a modernist who is in love with tradition," Paras has come up with work after work that is very now, mastering the trick of anchoring his work in a delicate spot between past and future.

To Eric, culture is always part of the buying decision. He observes, for instance, that while Americans love it perfect, Europeans tend to go for a bit of a worn-out look in furniture.

"The Europeans, in many ways, are very traditional while the Americans are more experimental," he says, explaining that the former is always looking for a sense of the Old World.

Paras' artistry, like his own personality, is a study in symmetry. The Savanna Tete-a-Tete chair in worn black finish, though not linear, formal or stiff, is a work of balance, like two separate chairs brought together in yin-and-yang fashion. Even in his Namur accent table, maintaining equilibrium seems to be the design imperative, with black iron bars swirling up in the shape of an hourglass to keep the whole structure steady.

In Paras' world, however, it's not always hip to be square. His Panno floor lamp, for instance, is actually a recreation of the tri-pod made of tobacco-finished gemilina wood, a family of Philippine mahogany that is the material du jour of his recent collection.

Luxurious

Like Christian Lacroix, one of his design idols, Paras' materials are luxuriously authentic. It explains his predilection for such techniques as the two-process lamination, which brings out the natural patterns or texture of wood. His Monterey coffee table displays this fondness for the exotic, along with his experimentation with pizarra finishing, which gives surfaces a certain effect, as though they have been exposed to light rain.

As a furniture designer, Paras knows he has to stay alert to the vicissitudes of fashion, his classical orientation notwithstanding. It is for this reason, as well as his insatiable desire to see as much of the world as he can, that every now and then he finds himself in places like Paris, where he feels it is best to spot trends.

He believes it is the ability to merge influences from other countries with his appreciation and understanding of his own culture and country that a Filipino designer like him can carve a niche in the face of globalization.

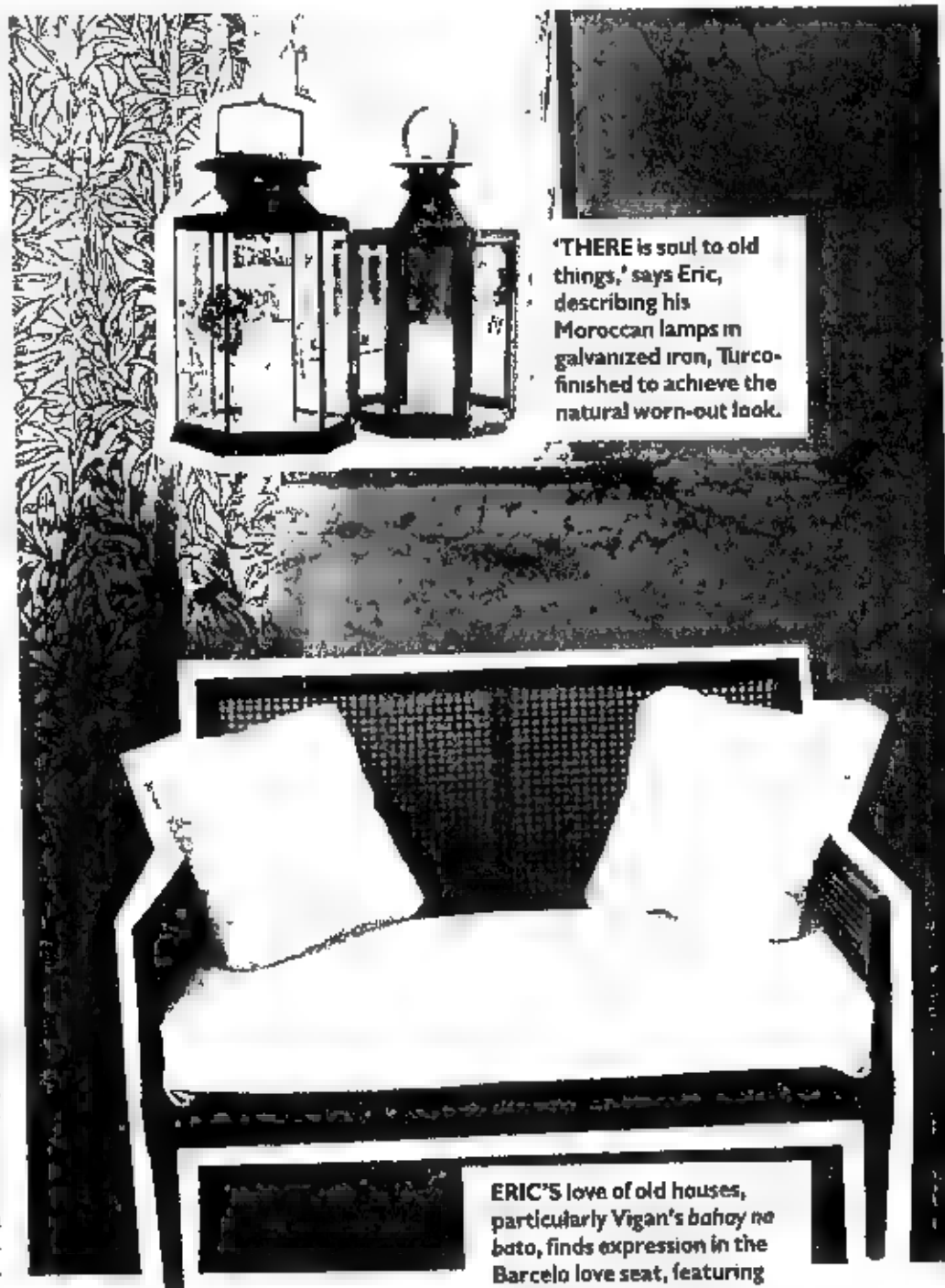
Nevertheless, he laments the lack of government support that is crucial to the Philippines' survival and success in the world of design. "We have an abundance of talent," says Paras. "But here you're on your own."

Garden-inspired

Even his background as a creative spirit is rooted in the home. Somehow he shares something in common with his other creative idol, Dutch celebrity Marcel Wolterinck. While Wolterinck owes his interior design career to horticulture, Paras owes his to gardening.

"From childhood, I have been fascinated with gardens," says the designer, whose house-cum-showroom features a miniature pond at the entrance with a frog perched on a leaf in the center. Water springs upward and lands on the lip of the frog to produce the mating call of frogs on rainy days.

Sitting on his wooden bench out on his front yard is to be transported back to Paras' good old days in Pampanga, where houses had sprawling gardens with ponds and frogs in them.

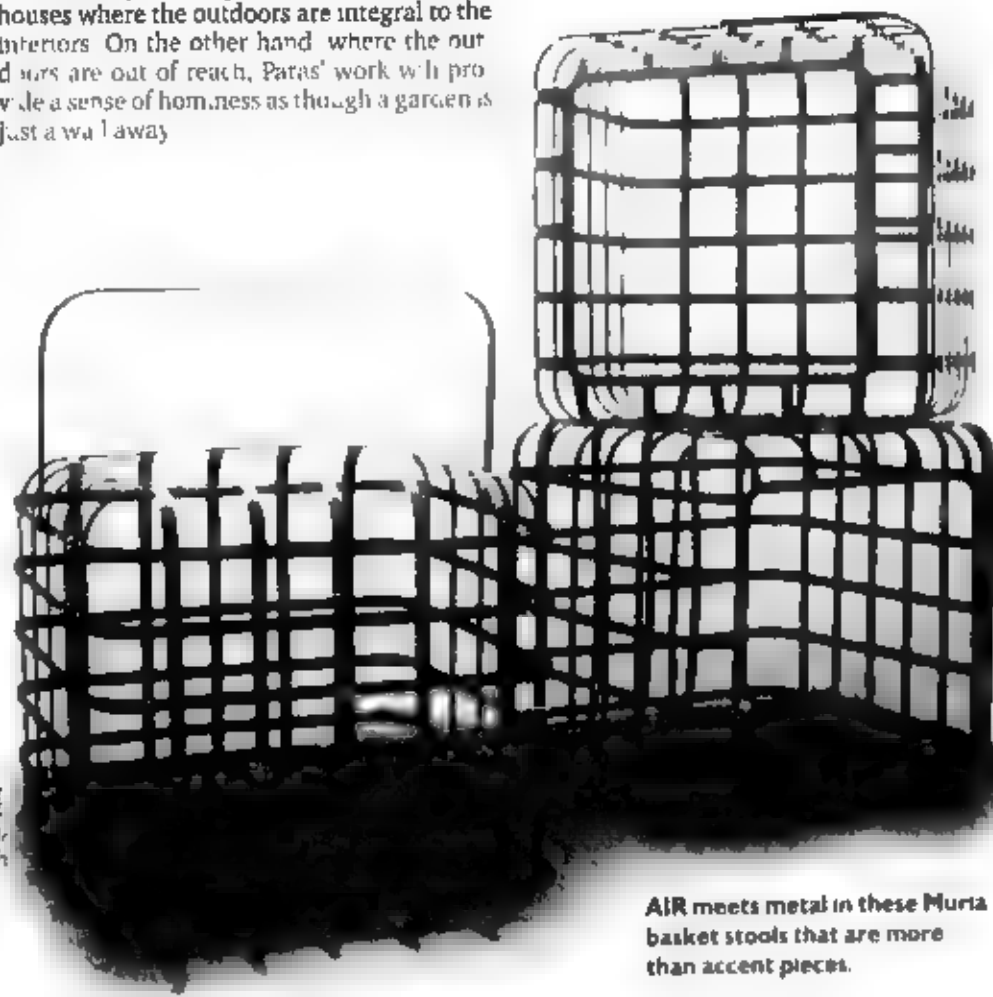


"THERE is soul to old things," says Eric, describing his Moroccan lamps in galvanized iron, Turco-finished to achieve the natural worn-out look.

No wonder the elements of nature are often incorporated in his pieces, whether in the Schuster extension table whose light oil-stain finish gives the effect of sun exposure, or again in the Monterey coffee table and its rain-drenched effect.

Practically all his pieces will work well in houses where the outdoors are integral to the interiors. On the other hand, where the outdoors are out of reach, Paras' work will provide a sense of hominess as though a garden is just a wall away.

Eric T. Paras' showroom is at 2630 F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City. Call (632) 8329972 or e-mail eleven05@yahoo.com



AIR meets metal in these Muria basket stools that are more than accent pieces.



THE KLYKUS accent chair, combining form and function, creeps as sculpture.



THE LIVING room's white sofa goes well with the immaculate white walls and dark wood frames of the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Trendy

Tokyo-like designs

THE TRENDSETTING atmosphere of Tokyo and its essence as a barometer of world fashion are captured in the Tokyo Mansions interiors as conceptualized by top interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almaro.

"We will translate trendy Tokyo into Tokyo Mansions interiors with the use of a variety of sculptural pieces that will double as furniture and art pieces," says Cynthia.

The living room of the Meiji Model Mansion features a Minotti-style white sofa that goes well with the immaculate white walls and contrasts with the dark wood frames of the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Modern woven Asian lamps are used as accent pieces in the dining room, which features a wenge perforated wall with backlighting for a luminous effect. From the living room, view of the line of tall bamboos gives a rural ambience to this modern home.

The master's bedroom features a suspended plasma TV which doubles as a divider. A freeform woven chair and accent lamp give it a trendy look. The main luxury, though, is the master's bathroom with its own Jacuzzi, his and hers lavatories, and spacious walk-in closets. Glass on all walls give the bathroom a sense of bigger space.

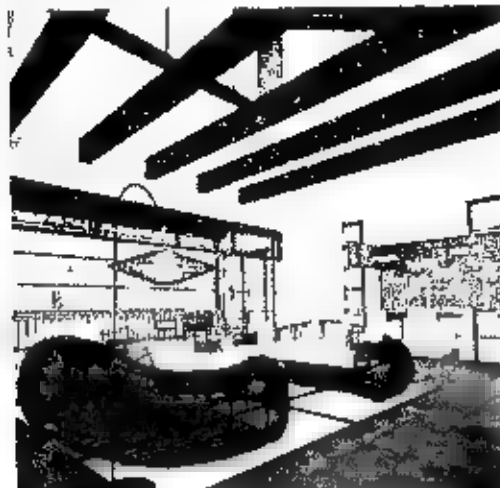
The interiors of the Yamato are just as trendy. The living room prominently displays croissant sofas inspired by the collection of Filipino designer Kenneth Cobonpue. A clerestory window allows natural lighting throughout the day. Oversized, geometric chairs fit well in the dining room, where circular lamps seem to hang by threads from the ceiling.

The master's bedroom features a Zen bed, a modern chair and oversized lamps as accent pieces for the headboard. Wooden lattices are featured on the top portions of the floor-to-ceiling glass walls, which give commanding views of the clubhouse and the Yamato's infinity pool. Simple drapes, meanwhile, provide a sense of privacy.

Overall, the design of the Tokyo Mansions suits sophisticated home buyers who desire a daily spiritual retreat every time they get back from a day's work. Tokyo Mansions residents also get free golf membership in the world-class, 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club designed by Asia's leading golf course designer, International Management Group (IMG).

South Forbes inclusion in the exclusive golf club of IMG Sports Club means preferred access and discounted rates in 42 world-class golf courses worldwide. Get that chance to make a birdie putt at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club in the tropical paradise of Bali. Or try to score a hole-in-one at San Francisco's prestigious Presidio Golf Course.

For a private preview of Tokyo Mansions and its trendy interiors, call 6358108/6364647 or visit www.southforbes.com



CROISSANT-SHAPED sofas were inspired by the collection of Filipino designer Kenneth Cobonpue.



A ZEN BED, a modern chair and oversized lamps are the main features of this bedroom.

A SUSPENDED plasma TV doubles as a divider in the master's bedroom.



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THE WARMTH wood brings is often unmatched by other flooring materials.

The man who installed wooden flooring in the homes of Hollywood celebrities has opened his first showroom in Manila



NOT just for the living room and private spaces anymore, wood flooring is increasingly being used for the kitchen these days, sometimes even the bathroom.

Wood *to the wise*

By Alex Y. Vergara

WOODEN FLOORS NEED not be limited to your receiving area and private spaces. In the United States, for instance, there's a growing preference among homeowners to go for wooden floors, from the living room all the way to the dining area, kitchen, bedrooms and even bathroom.

It doesn't matter whether you go for laminated (faux wood made of high-density fiberboard) or the real thing, as long as the wooden floor is treated with aluminum oxide. It can reportedly withstand even the wettest environment. Perhaps even inside a shower stall!

Apart from acting as a sealant to ward off scratches and the effects of water and weather, aluminum oxide imparts the wood with a satin sheen that renders floor wax, floor polishers and the lowly coconut husk (*bunot*) superfluous.

Forget polyurethane. Aluminum oxide is a newer and reportedly better alternative to the older process of protecting and enhancing the appearance of wood and laminated floors.

Filipino architects, interior designers and homeowners interested in aluminum oxide-treated floors—from maple to pecan, cherry to hickory, pine to oak—need not go to the US to buy them.

If they want the same flooring found in the homes of Hollywood celebrities Barbra Streisand, Harrison Ford, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, all they have to do is visit the very first showroom of Floor Station, Inc. in Manila.

A Los Angeles-based company that's reportedly the biggest manufacturer and supplier of flooring materials in the West Coast (with offices and showrooms in eight states), Floor Station, Inc. recently opened at unit 805 of the Tynon Center on Pearl Drive in Ortigas Center (tel. 7171396 and 6366855).

On top of its factory in Mexico, which manufactures bamboo flooring under the brand name Pacific Rim, Floor Station also carries some of the biggest and most prestigious floor brands in the US such as Anderson, Wilsonart and Armstrong.

Beautiful, durable

They're beautiful as well as durable. During the production process, these floors are also dipped in wax as an added protection against termites.

Floor Station also does made-to-order floors under its medallion series (think concrete pavers made of premium wood). Made from various types of stained wood with beveled edges (for a more tactile effect), a medallion floor is an ideal accent piece in the foyer or family room. Certain designs come either with mother-of-pearl inlay or carved metal accents.

The Manila opening also signals the 21-year-old company's move to expand its business in Asia. Floor Station's decision to choose the Philippines over other Asian countries as its base of operations is both for strategic as well as sentimental reasons.

Floor Station owner Ramon "Jun" Alejo is a

WOOD D3



RAMON "Jun" Alejo talks shop at the Floor Station showroom in Manila.

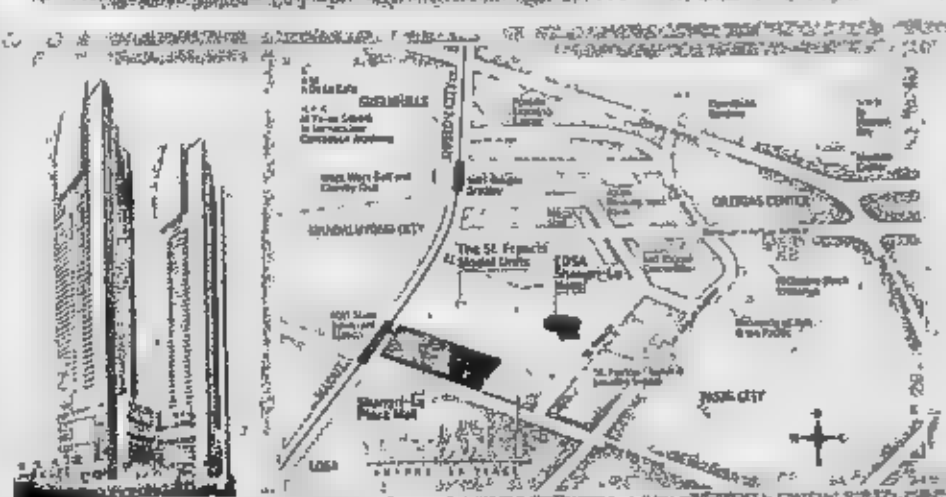
RAFFY LERMA

"International style... what appears to me."

JAIME FERNANDO "JAY-JAY" REYES, BUSINESSMAN



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INUMERABLE VICENCIO

Liz Carlota Vicencio, daughter of Roseller and Caroline Vicencio, will marry José Mari Inumberable, son of Emmanuel and Madeleine Inumberable, on March 24 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown of ivory silk duchess satin embellished with caviar beads, faux pearls and rhinestones. Floral-shaped Swarovski crystals will adorn her hair and she will have a 30 ft-long veil. The bridal entourage will wear gowns in blush, rose and salmon-pink silk taffeta.

Reception will follow at the Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

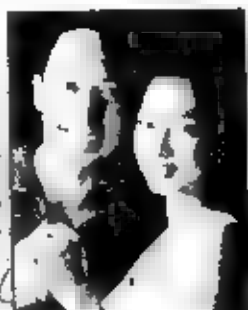


Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the *Inquirer*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

FRANCISCO-SEÑERES

Hannah M. Señeres, daughter of Ambassador Roy V. Señeres and Minerva M. Señeres, and Francis Edward D. Francisco, son of Ernesto E. Francisco and Corazon D. Francisco, will exchange marriage vows at the St. Joseph's Parish Bamboo Organ Church in Las Piñas on March 25, 3:30 p.m. Reception will follow at 6 p.m. at the SJA Hall. The bride will wear a strapless bubble gown with train in ivory shades of duchess satin by Loreto.



SACLUTI-DILOY

José Antonio A. Sacluti, son of Armando N. Sacluti and Rachel A. Alvero, and Catherine Joy M. Diloy, daughter of José S. Diloy Jr. and Judith Cristina M. Diloy, will wed on March 18 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Fr. Blanco's Garden. Ito Curata designed the wedding gown.



SANTIAGO-MABILIR

Wilfredo C. Santiago, son of Bartolome and Juliana Santiago, will wed Marissa L. Mabilir, daughter of Mario and Flordeliza Mabilir on March 25 at St. Vincent Ferrer Church Solana, Cagayan Valley. Amang Julian designed the wedding gown. The gown is made of duchess satin with fully beaded body using Swarovski crystals, acrylic stone and crystal beads with detachable 5-meter twin-panel train and metallic double-width illusion tulle veil.

WATCH OUT FOR IT

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THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's family: sisters Jili Mae and Shaunna; parents lawyer and Ms Rody Padlan; and brothers Jody James and Jay Vincent



Color them pink for love

FELIX ALBERT GOQUINGCO Ramos, son of Dr. Roberto Ramos and Cirila Ramos, and Dr. Janelle Marie Simpao Padlan, daughter of lawyer Rody and Elizabeth Padlan, were married recently at the Santuario de San Jose.

Fr. Jerry Maniangit, O.P., officiated.

It was a memorable day for the couple. Most of their guests were in the church to witness them make their vows. The church was decorated in shades of pink to create a romantic ambience.

Reception followed at The Mandarin Oriental Hotel grand ballroom, also elegantly decorated in pink.

Guests of the well-attended affair stayed and partied till past midnight.



THE COUPLE flanked by their entourage including matron of honor Ma. Rosario Sason; maid of honor Dr. Christine Prado; best man Albert Felix Ramos; bridesmaid Jili Mae Padlan; groomsmen Robert John Ramos; junior bridesmaids Arnelyn Simpao and Ma. Pilar Bernad; junior groomsmen Jody James Padlan and Timothy Simpao; candle sponsors doctors Michelle Tinitigan and Mike Lagamay; veil sponsors Dr. Karen Ocampo and Andrew Borbon; cord sponsors Pauline Simpao and Jay Vincent Padlan; ring bearer Julian Vicencio; coin bearer Jose Enrique Padlan; bible bearer Andre Sason; and flower girls Shaunna Mae Padlan, Sophia Castro, Louise Suarez, Sophia Torres and Isabela Samson

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo I SEE U

- ACROSS
- 1 Isaac Asimov book
 - 7 Smidgens
 - 11 In the raw
 - 16 Cato's 1,400
 - 19 Team spirit
 - 20 Buffalo's lake
 - 21 Greek salad ingredient
 - 22 Before
 - 23 Tip from a grammarian?
 - 25 Kindled again
 - 26 Point of a pen
 - 27 With 14-Down, obvious
 - 28 Cozy corner
 - 29 Took long steps
 - 30 Thurman of movies
 - 31 Lifted extremely high?
 - 38 Spring bloom
 - 39 Wilde's "The Picture of — Gray"
 - 40 Give a name to
 - 41 Multiple-PC hookup
 - 42 Winnebago, e.g.
 - 44 Ovum
 - 45 T-ply the loof seyer
 - 46 Yogi, e.g.
 - 47 One choosing a specific condo?
 - 51 Butter
 - 52 Total failures
 - 53 Plays charades, e.g.
 - 54 A Gershwin
 - 55 People breathing audibly
 - 58 No. in Nuremberg
 - 59 Get an — effort
 - 60 Give — while
 - 61 Part of French Polynesia
 - 65 Battleship nuts
 - 66 "Spenser: For Hire" star's favorite sweets?
 - 70 Actor Silver
 - 71 Resort port in NW France
 - 73 Feak crummy
 - 74 Blue-green
 - 75 Beat walkers
 - 76 It — (rude)
 - 79 Gist
 - 80 Cup division
 - 81 Old episode
 - 84 Granola tidbit
 - 85 Building story that serves a purpose?
 - 87 Preholiday rights
 - 88 Obtained
 - 89 Baking pan
 - 91 Fairy's cousin
 - 92 Sewer scumier
 - 93 Some ballplayers
 - 95 Big name in private planes
 - 98 Brimless caps
 - 100 Tired folks' relaxing period of card-playing?
 - 103 Stumpy's canine pal
 - 104 Incite
 - 105 NYC stadium name
 - 106 Comfy rooms
 - 110 "Life — cabaret"
 - 111 Jocularly
 - 112 What you might shout when you get superb service from a package delivery co.?
 - 115 Opera division
 - 116 Put up, as a building
 - 117 Simon or Sedaka
 - 118 Cosmetics queen Curtis
 - 119 Director
 - 120 Office fixtures
 - 121 Notion, in Nantes
 - 122 Combined
 - DOWN
 - 1 Don of talk radio
 - 2 Altar source
 - 3 Kind of hygiene
 - 4 As much as a sack will hold
 - 5 Spanish cheer
 - 6 Sipped drink
 - 7 Barfi
 - 8 Melodic passage
 - 9 Petulant quarrel
 - 10 Behold
 - 11 Kramden's pal
 - 12 Heads-up
 - 13 1,000 cycles per second
 - 14 See 27
 - 15 Across
 - 16 Loathe
 - 18 Restaurant offering
 - 17 Places for forensic testing
 - 18 Those who corrupt
 - 24 17-Down material
 - 25 Abior
 - 29 Guys-only
 - 32 Cuffs are slapped on them
 - 33 Stuntist
 - 34 Use a spade
 - 35 Put the — on (squelch)
 - 36 Graduate
 - 37 Most loopy
 - 38 Babel that natural objects possess
 - 43 Asimov's area
 - 45 Siren West
 - 48 Decimat base
 - 49 McDonald's honcho Ray
 - 50 Aviator
 - 51 Commoner
 - 52 Car grille covers
 - 55 Handle dolly
 - 56 Elevs
 - 57 Comical Kelt
 - 59 Elvis — Presley
 - 62 Mine strike
 - 63 Chilly weather wear
 - 64 Wedges in
 - 65 Bator
 - 66 Mongolia
 - 67 Run out of steam
 - 68 Prefix with distant
 - 69 Russian coin
 - 72 Comedian, e.g.
 - 75 — de sac (dead end)
 - 77 Midways
 - 78 Scarf down
 - 80 Proposal
 - 81 Second interment
 - 82 Disappear gradually
 - 83 Strike a chord
 - 85 Not molded
 - 86 Napoleon's tale
 - 88 Signal
 - 89 Maryland athlete informally
 - 90 Lobby add-on
 - 94 Worked well together
 - 95 Trial venues
 - 96 Monster moniker
 - 97 Cusie some time
 - 98 "Grease" high school
 - 101 Monk's robe
 - 102 Elvar, e.g.
 - 107 Sued up
 - 108 Zero
 - 109 Went after legally
 - 112 Probe with directional
 - 113 Bit of resistance
 - 114 22nd letter

THE NEWLYWEDS with their alyongs and ninongs: (from left, bottom) Dr. Jose Moran, Dr. Charity Gorospe, Dr. Isabela Ongtengco Jr., Rosa Merita Agay, Dr. Norma Padlan, Tomas Maningding Jr., Susette Medina, Dr. Manuel Mejia Jr., Miriam Mirasol, Dr. Antonio Tanchuling; (from left, top) Dr. Pedro Iral, Betty Chua, Dr. Adel Vogel Samson, Dr. Cecilia Bernad, Minako Yamasaki, Kornitsu Yamasaki, Roselyn Rosario and Rene Medina



AFTER THE groom sang Gary V's "How Did You Know?", the couple had their first dance as husband and wife to the same song.

AT THE RECEPTION with the groom's family: brother Albert Felix, newlyweds, grandmother Dr. Julia Ramos, parents Dr. and Ms Roberto Ramos, aunt/ninang Dr. Cecilia Bernad, cousin Dr. Emil Jaca, and brother Robert John

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



KATIGBAK DEBUT
Abigail Jean "Abi" Katigbak, daughter of Hector and Cecille Katigbak, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Patio Ibarra, Quezon Avenue, QC.

Her debutante's rube princess cut gown was designed by Emily Sy of ESY Creations.

RODRIGUEZ DEBUT
Lourdes Erika Atienza Rodriguez, daughter of Eduardo and Dr. Lorna (nee Azenza) Rodriguez, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 18 at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City. She is a BS Nutrition and Dietetics student at the University of Santo Tomas.

The debutante will wear a gown by Thelma Daquilog made of pleated taffeta with layered, ruffled bouffant skirt.

FLORO DEBUT
Marie Angeline Floro, daughter of David Sz and Remia Floro, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Grand Ballroom of Alabang Country Club, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

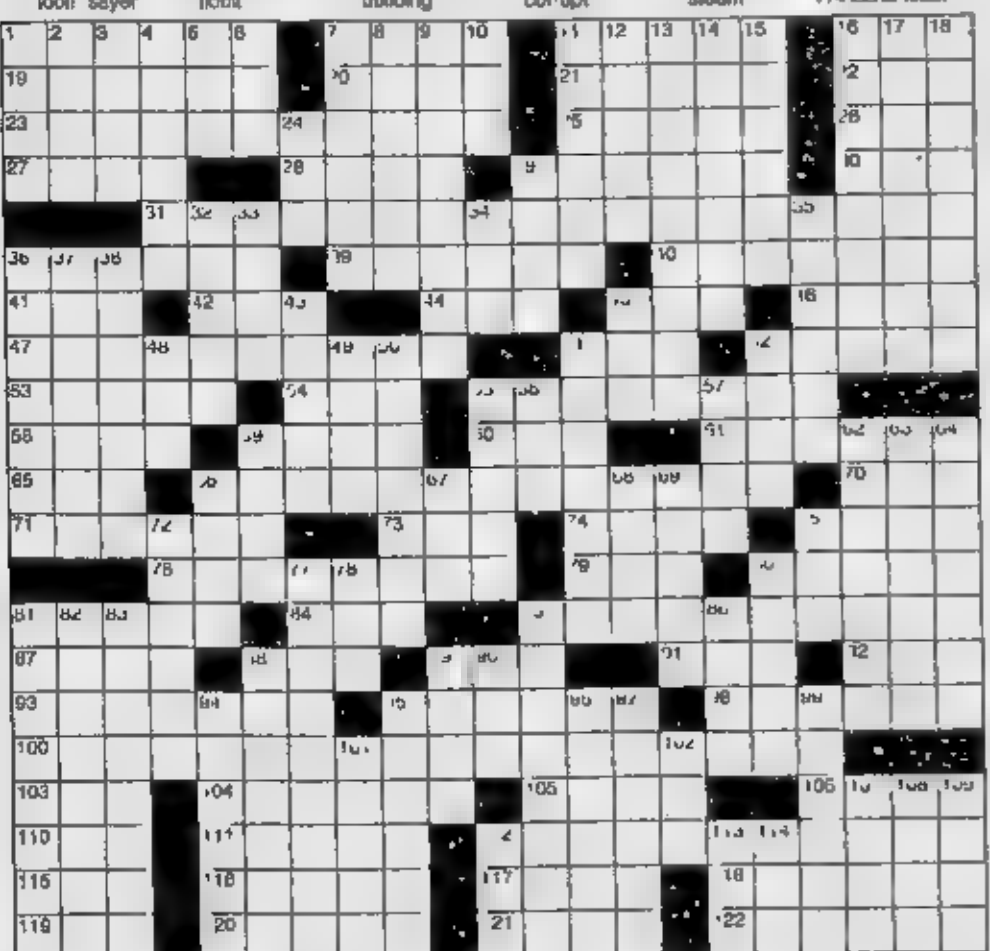
She wore a gown of pink crumpled taffeta, accented with French lace and crystal work, designed by Rem Divino.



Wedding seminar
THE PHILIPPINE Association of Wedding Planners (PAWP), in cooperation with Edsa Shangri-La Manila, is holding a wedding planning and coordination workshop March 25-26.

The seminar is dubbed Wedding Planning and Coordination: Learn it from the Professionals, Year 2.

Professional planners and industry experts will offer tips and know-how on planning and coordinating a wedding. Call JP Monilla at 5343721 loc. 12123, 4451594, or 0918-9272218.



answer on page E4

Reconciling with an abusive, unfaithful husband

DEAR EMILY,

I've been married for 25 years. A year and a half ago, I separated from my husband because I could no longer bear his physical violence.

When he hit me for the sixth time, I decided that was it. I tried to commit suicide by taking sleeping pills, but I was revived in the hospital.

He is now having an affair with a 22-year-old girl who's working in a department store. I am angry because, even if we live separately, we still see each other often. The girl is the same age as our daughter, our only child.

We planned to reunite but, upon hearing this, I decided to cancel those plans. He told me he loved the girl and couldn't let her go.

EMILY'S POST



Emily
A. Marcelo

My husband is 63 and I am 50.

Am I making the right decision? If we get together again, I am sure he will continue to sleep with that girl. I think he only wants us to reunite for appearances' sake.

EMMA

He is 63 and you're 50. Aren't you both advanced in age to be fighting like you're still teenagers? Aren't you supposed to have both mellowed and to start looking toward retirement and some quiet by now? Isn't he about to get ready to go to the "departure area"? Not quite yet, but about to?

I'm joking, but for him to be still using brawn at that age is really reprehensible.

If, after 25 years, your marriage didn't get better but got worse, don't you think it's about time you made some drastic decisions on your own?

Call it defeatist, call it whatever name you want—but how much longer are you going to take the mental, emotional and physical abuse from this lump of a guy you call your husband? God in heaven, will one of you please get up, get out and move on—pronto?

How can you take so much beating and still allow jealousy to creep in?

Wouldn't it be better to put a tight ribbon round his neck and present him as a gift to her? Can't you imagine yourself just letting everything get blown by the wind and beginning a new chapter in your life?

Appearances count a lot in this society, definitely. But haven't you lived through enough sham and hypocrisy already? You're unhappy, he's so unhappy he beats you up—how can appearances matter? Are you expecting to get a ribbon or a medal for that?

Unless you are a candidate for sainthood or you really, really still love your husband enough to fight for him to the death despite everything—then, save this marriage by all means.

In a little while all his aches will be magnified and his body parts will start failing and falling apart.

If you hang on long enough, his young mistress might have second thoughts about him and leave him sooner than later. If you're "lucky," your dear husband might take a second look at you and allow you to take care of him—eventually.

But, be careful what you wish for as you just might get it—according to a wise saying. It's all up to you now.

E-mail the author at emmarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7-15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM

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What you don't know about your SOAP MIGHT HURT YOU.

If the Litmus paper turns blue, ibig sabihin alkaline o high ang pH.
Alkaline or high pH level substances may be harsh to your feminine area.



Sa laundry detergent, blue!



Sa ordinary bath soap, same as detergent, blue din!



Sa pH Care, no change in color!

Unlike soap, pH Care has the right pH of 5* kaya hindi harsh sa sensitive feminine area. May moisturizers pa to help prevent dryness and irritation.

So why are you still using soap?



Mag-pHicare everyday!
*for external genitalia

Major miracle through Mother Consuelo Barcelo

THE MAJOR MIRACLE EXPERIENCED by a Filipino housewife, who was in a coma for three weeks, through the intercession of Mother Consuelo Barcelo, might help speed up the beatification of the Servant of God who died in 1940.

Mother Consuelo founded the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation with her sister Mother Rita Barcelo in 1888.

Theresita "Chit" Picache Vizconde, an alumna of La Consolacion College, started having se-

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



vere pain on the left side of her stomach in 2004, three days after taking antibiotics for urine infection. She was brought to the emergency room of St. Luke's Hospital for a cystoscopy. She could not pass urine even with a catheter.

Chit Vizconde prayed before going to the ER. That was the last thing she remembered. When she woke up after three weeks in coma, she was told she suffered organ failure. All her 10 doctors concluded her chance of survival was only 30 percent.

Her husband Manoling, her three children, relatives, friends and the nuns of La Consolacion launched a prayer brigade. Sister Puri Peña, OSA, said the sisters prayed for Chit every day, begging Mother Consuelo to ask God to save her.

Chit says, "I am deeply grateful for their prayers because, by some miracle, I woke up one morning and took out all the tubes, even though I was not conscious of what I did."

"I never thought I was comatose because nobody told me. (I only found out) last January, when I went out for lunch with a *balikbayani* relative who told me about it. All of them kept asking: 'How are you now?' 'Don't work too hard,' etc. They were all amazed I looked better and healthier... I just want to let people know that God showed everyone that miracles did happen every minute and people should be aware to live a prayerful life each day."

"I know deep inside my heart that the nuns of La Consolacion College prayed for my speedy recovery through the intercession of Mother Consuelo Barcelo who is now performing miracles and helping those who pray to her."

Beatification in Manila?

According to Fr. Fernando Rojo, OSA, postulator for the cause of Mother Consuelo's beatification, Pope Benedict XVI has given the Cardinal of the place, where the Servant of God (a candidate for beatification) used to reside, the authority to preside over the beatification ceremonies.

So the ceremonies might take place in Manila when and if Mother Consuelo is beatified. Those who want *estampita* of Mother Consuelo can write to me at PO Box 2050, Manila. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Mission

The Congregation of the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation is opening its own mission in Barcelona, Spain, from where Mother Consuelo came. The congregation's twin congregation in Spain, the Agostinas Misioneras, has many houses. It has a *residencia* on the original site of the Beaterio de Mantelas de San Agustin.

The congregation runs it as a dormitory for Barcelona university students. This is where the Filipino sisters will stay until they can find their own accommodation.

Testimonies of healing can be sent to La Consolacion Convent, 273 Santolan Road, Pinagabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila, or call Sister Puri at 7252727.

Healing Mass

A healing Mass will be held at 12 noon, March 19, Feast of Saint Joseph, at the Chapel of Saintes Padre Pio and Philomena, 4/F, Goodwill Bldg., 393 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. Celebrant is healing priest Fr. Teofilo Rustia of Bethesda Spring of Hope Healing Ministries.

This Mass is the third in a series of monthly healing Masses sponsored by the chapel.



MOTHER Consuelo Barcelo y Pages

Call the Chapel of Sts. Padre Pio and Philomena at 8958684 loc. 110, office hours, Monday-Friday.

Novena

The Tagbilaran Association of Metro Manila is holding a nine-day novena of Masses for St. Joseph whose feast day is on March 19. The Masses are being held at the residence of lawyer Gonzalo Escalona and his wife at 148 10th St., New Manila, Quezon City. *Hermano mayor* this year is lawyer Tex Cimafranca.

Devotees include Sol Alturas Yu, Eddie Marjori, Tita Lapez, Norma Francia, Elsie Peralta, Rose Soria, Baby Mamen gan, Purita Sojiven, lawyer Rolando Inting, Tweet Tweet Alturas and Mimer Alturas.

All from Tagbilaran, Bohol, they have, for the past many years, been holding novena Masses as St. Joseph is the patron saint of Bohol.

Lenten exhibit

The exhibit of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Gen. Trias, Cavite, of images used during the season of Lent ends today, March 12. The exhibit includes images from other parishes in the province. Fr. Mendoza, historian of Cavite, mounted the exhibit.

Shrine

The parish of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Valenzuela, Bulacan marks its 45th year today, March 12, with a Lenten recollection at 1 p.m. and concelebrated Mass at 5 p.m. led by Bishop José Oliveros. Call 2915609. Msgr. Moises Andrade is rector.

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Promo price
P4,760.00

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with Celestion speakers
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Promo price
P18,066.00

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Reg. price
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96KHz/24 Bit
acoustic effects
47 effects
80 memory locations
48 drum/hybrid patterns
chromatic tuner
programmable expression pedal
XLR output
USB port
P10,300.00

B2 1u
96KHz/24 Bit
bass effects w/ pedal
47 effects
80 memory locations
48 drum/hybrid patterns
chromatic tuner
programmable expression pedal
XLR output
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80 memory locations
48 drum/hybrid patterns
chromatic tuner
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ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

1	I	R	O	S	T	D	A	B	S	N	A	K	E	D	M	C	D
2	M	O	R	A	L	E	R	I	E	O	L	I	V	E	E	R	E
3	U	S	A	G	E	A	D	V	I	C	E	S	E	L	L	I	N
4	S	P	L	I	N	O	O	K	S	T	R	O	D	E	J	M	A
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9	M	I	M	E	S	I	R	A	H	E	E	Z	E	R	S		
10	N	E	I	N	A	F	O	R	T	A	T	A	N	T			
11	U	S	S	O	R	C	H	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	R	O	N
12	S	T	M	A	L	O	A	I	L	A	Q	U	A	C	O	P	S
13	M	A	N	N	E	R	E	D	R	O	B	O	U	N	C	E	
14	R	E	R	J	O	A	T	J	T	L	E	F	L	O	O	R	
15	E	V	E	S	J	O	T	I	N	E	L	F	R	A	T		
16	B	A	S	E	M	E	N	L	E	S	S	N	A	B	E	R	E
17	U	N	O	R	E	S	T	O	R	T	H	E	W	E	A	R	
18	R	E	A	S	T	I	R	O	P	A	S	H	E	D	E	N	S
19	S	A	H	U	M	O	R	P	S	I	L	O	V	E	Y	O	
20	A	G	T	E	R	E	C	T	N	E	L	E	N	E			
21	L	E	F	D	E	S	K	S	I	D	E	E	M	E	L	D	E

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Grand Store of the Year

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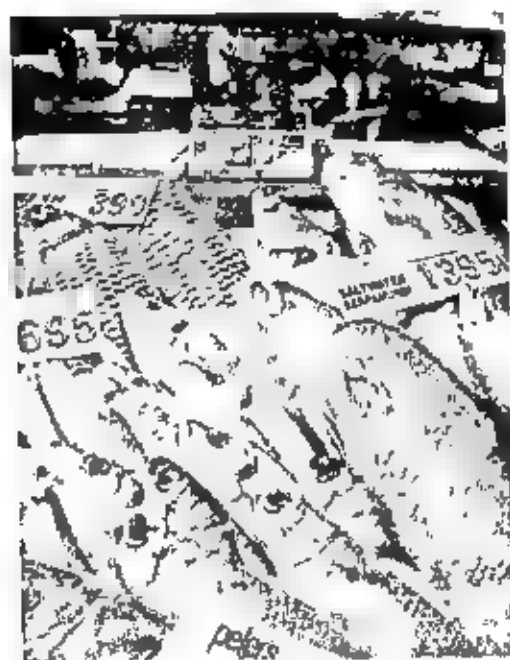


Text and photos by J Gamboa
Contributor

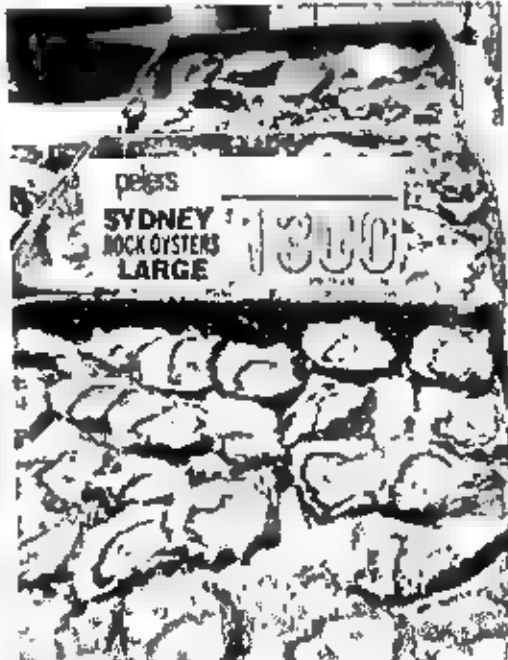
Sydney Fish Market at Bank Street Pyrmont,
is open every morning (except Christmas Day),
from 7 a.m.



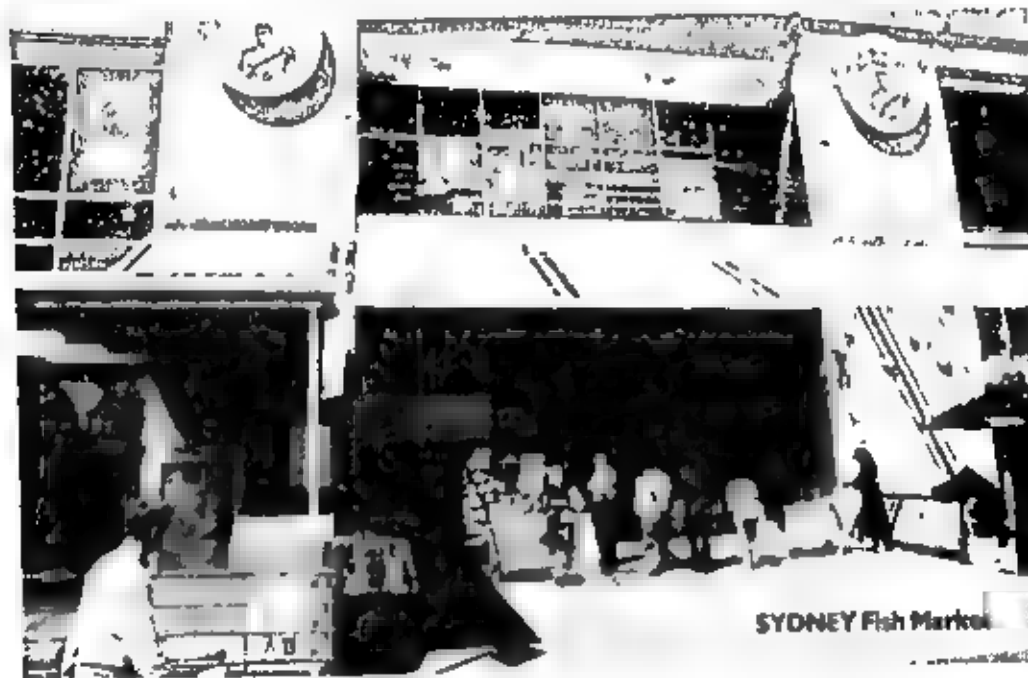
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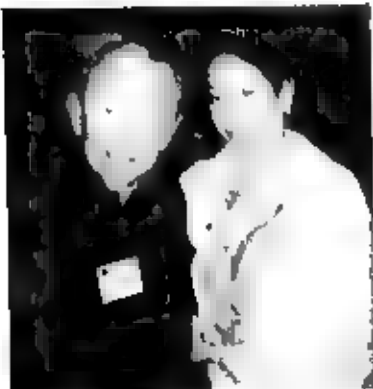
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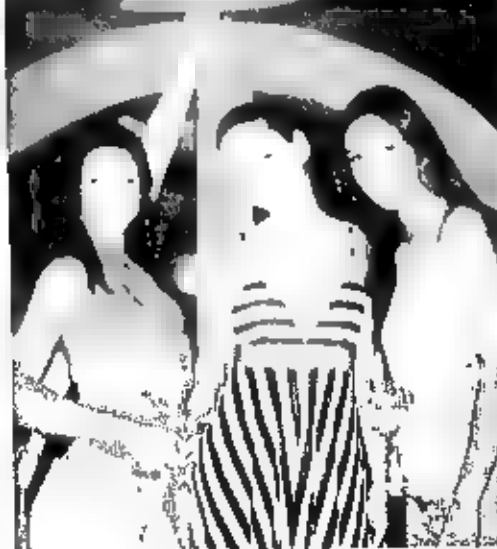
SGV founder Washington SyCip and Doris He



LUCERNE owner Ivan Yao and Mall of Asia manager Steven Tan



PEARL celebrator TDG CFO Socorro Niro with guests Tina and Joe Guingona



BUBBLES Paraiso, Nicolette Bell and Val de los Santos



ALL-OUT '70s Luke Jickain, Joji Dingcong and Anton San Diego

Nothing can stop progress

MY LATE BROTHER, LOUIE Prieto, was a comic. His sense of humor was fantastic. He once said that if you invested in a good suit, you would never grow hungry. His theory was that by wearing that suit, one could just hang out at the village church and eat at all the food-laden wakes, or make the rounds of the hotel circuit and dine at all the wedding receptions. Louie would have turned 44 this March 16. We all miss his great wit.

Louie's food theory was particularly felt these past two weeks, as our family cook left us. Being total useless in the kitchen, my husband Dennis and I have been eating out for lunch and dinner daily. Luckily, we have been invited to dinner almost every day so we have not had to resort to Louie's tactics. In fact, there have been so many dinner celebrations ranging from building launches to birthdays, company anniversaries and new restaurant openings. Truly the social whirl is impervious to political problems.

New SM development

At the height of the attempted coup and rallies, SM Development Corp., one of the country's most respected names in retailing and mall development, went ahead and launched The Mezza Residences, a whopping 152 floors of residential space spread over four towers, each 38-stories tall! Situated on the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Araneta Street in the heart of Quezon City, Mezza will be an area landmark in the decades to come.

The well-attended launch at the Podium Mall had Henry Sy Jr. and his sister, Elizabeth Sy, unveil the scale model, showing the four towers and its sprawling, 1,000-sqm lawn plus all the amenities including a 25-meter lap pool, picnic and playground area and Zen-inspired garden. The best part is that The Mezza Residences (check out www.smdevelopment.com) will have hassle-free access with a bridge that connects to SM Centerpoint. If I lived there, I might as well apply as mall manager since I will surely be shopping every day!

Despite the "political disturbances" that evening, the event had a large turnout and was quite successful. I particularly enjoyed the food catered by Margarita Pores' Cibo,



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Despite the political instability, SM is pushing through with development and the Delgado group sails on, intrepidly

which beats home-cooked adobo any day. Right after I finally end my breast-feeding days, which I find myself still miraculously devoted to, I shall start Gaita's South Beach diet meal program.

There is nothing that can stop progress. I recall SM North being built at the height of the mid-'80s uncertainties and instability and SM Megamall pushing through despite the turmoil of the '90s. With his vision and genuine faith in the country, Henry Sy constructs his malls when everyone else seems to be heading in a jemmung-like mass-exodus to the US or wherever outside the Philippines. And now again, he is enforcing his belief in the country with the soon-to-come, May 2006 opening of the gigantic SM Mall of Asia.

Delgado gig

From one inspiring man to another: businessman Roberto Delgado just celebrated the 30th anniversary of his Transnational Diversified Group (TDG), an Asia-based business conglomerate of more than 30 dynamic member companies that employs and deploys an eye-opening 12,000 people (both land-based and sea-based) worldwide.

At the musical dinner affair at the Harbor Tent at Westin Philippine Plaza, members and family of TDG provided the entertainment, with singers from all departments wowing the crowd.

The affair also bestowed the Ambassador Antonio C. Delgado Achievement Award to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas for being the driving exponent of Philippine maritime industry's global competitiveness and a champion of OFW's.

TDG evolved from humble beginnings as a Manila-based shipping agency to a global powerhouse, placing thousands of Filipinos in jobs in all parts of the world, all the while working with pride and dignity throughout its 30-year history.

Many of the highly skilled Pinoy seafarers who are the backbone of most cruise liners and cargo/oil ships began their careers at TDG.

By the end of this year, TDG will open the country's most advanced maritime school with its sister company, NYK Line, one of the world's oldest and largest shipping companies.

More than a business investment, the NYK-TDG Transnational Maritime Academy will soon rise in Carmelkown, Calamba City, Laguna. The maritime school is a way to "give back to our Philippine community and help our young Filipinos to rise and improve their quality of life," as Robbie Delgado said at the cornerstone-laying ceremony with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos as their guests of honor.

It is entrepreneurs like Henry Sy, Robbie Delgado and others, whether operating taipanic institutions or just humbly starting home businesses, that we should thank for the resilience and economic growth in our country, despite, in spite, and with spite at the politicians who seem to be unable to lead us anywhere.

We do not have to be a taipan to contribute our own individual entrepreneurial stories, each of which collectively add to the economy.

In the entertainment and PR industry, for example, Keren Pascual has elevated the



CLOSE friends Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Keren Pascual, Richard and Lucy Gomez, and Ben Chan



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos at the NYK-TDG Maritime Academy ground-breaking with NYK Line honorary chair Jiro Nemoto



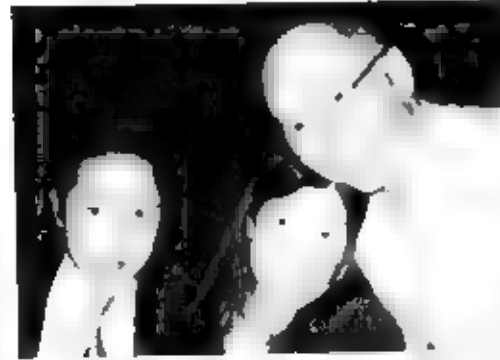
LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas



RUFFA Gutierrez



SM family Caroline Sy and Felicidad Sy



Dynamic TDG CEO Roberto Delgado with lovely wife Helen and son Rashid

standard of innovative marketing. He may be a one-man business, but his excellent marketing ideas have attracted the likes of Bench, Nestea, Coca-Cola and Department of Tourism to use his services for their products. For his birthday, the wonderful innovator

celebrated an all-out '70s dinner party in Red in Shang Makati.

Poetry night

As I prepare to celebrate my silver jubilee with the rest of my Assumption HS '81, I think about the years that have gone by and how we should all try to leave a positive impact on the various communities we interact with, just like these great businessmen.

In closing, I'd like to invite all poetry lovers to Alliance Française de Manille's "Printemps des Poetes," an evening of poetry on March 16, at 7 p.m., at AFM Bldg. along Nicanor Garcia Street.

In celebration Francophone Week, the evening will call on poets to display their artistry. Sponsored by the French Embassy and the Embassies of Cambodia, Canada, Romania and Switzerland, everyone is invited to join this cultural event.

E-mail the author seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



BDO executives Jesus Jacinto and Nestor Tan



ARTIST Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Nori Yamazaki and Nellie Delgado



TDG family singing during the 30th anniversary of Transnational Diversified Group



TDG special guests Sen. Richard Gordon, TDG CEO Roberto Delgado, Charles Penry of Etihad Airlines and Davo Balangue of SGV



MASTERMINDS president Sunny Ku, Julie Jalandoni and Johnny Cobanglat of Ace Hardware



MEZZA Residences launch. SM development president Rogelio Cabuñag, Henry Sy Jr. and Elizabeth Sy

PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST



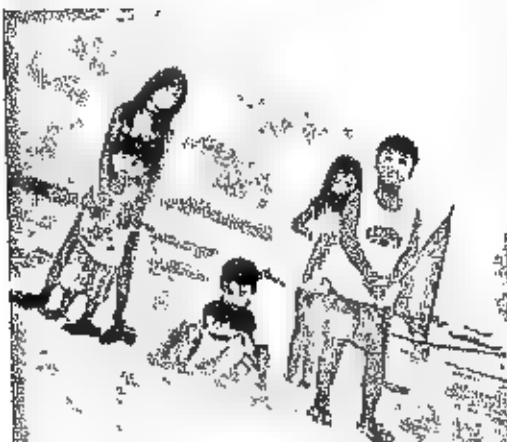
BEACH FIGHTERS, submitted by Ammiel M. de Leon. "No camera tricks, just an unadulterated zany shot" of Allan Nadal and Ammiel de Leon by director Ryan Arce on a recent Boracay trip with friends."



CHILDREN OF A GRACIOUS GOD, submitted by Clemente D. Fajardo Jr. "While others would spend a fortune to savor the sea and sand of Boracay, these children call the island their home whole year round. They must be children of a gracious God!"



CHILDREN OF THE SUN, submitted by Arnold C. Jumpay, who writes, "Afternoons 'til sunset will always be the time for children, local or visitors, to play and frolic along the beach."



KIDDIE BEACH MODELS, submitted by Angel Antonio. "Believe it or not, when Daddy and I shouted: 'Kids, picture!' all five of our little angels simply gathered themselves and projected as if they were professional talents!"

Boracay scenes

THE BEST OF BORACAY PHOTO contest draws to a close in two weeks.

The standouts this week join the previous weeks' winners as finalists for the top three prizes. They may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Soraga).

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200-resolution jpeg format and unaltered.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, land line phone number and e-mail address.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph.

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Resorts Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair, five days-four nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair, four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

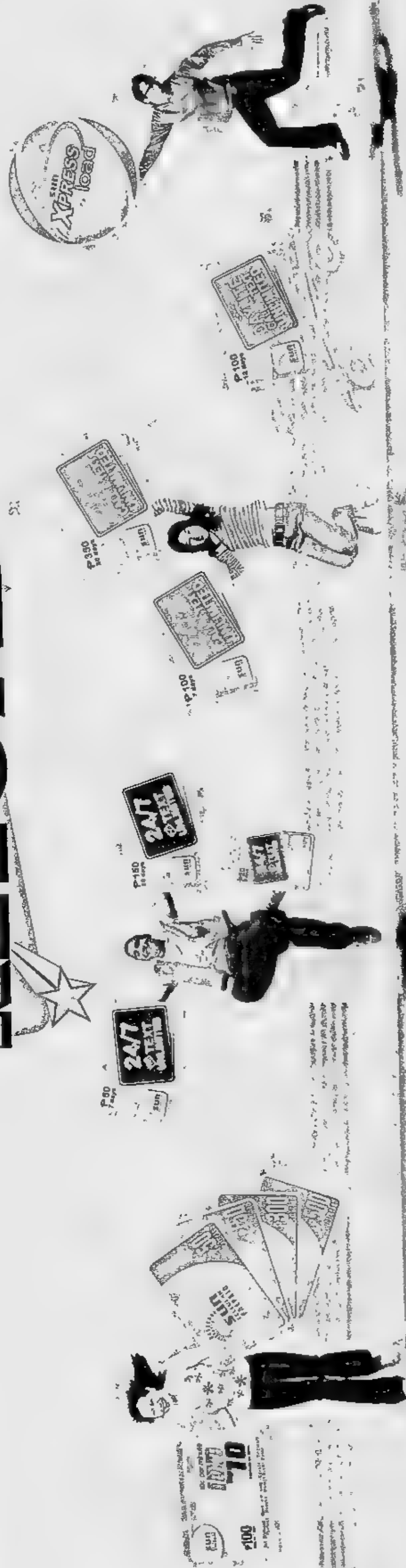
The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair, three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

For complete contest details, e-mail travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph.



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4. Load purchased via SMS, Convert-a-Load and monthly deposits from SureLoad Subscriptions are disqualified from this promotion.

5. The subscriber will receive a text message with a 14-digit number string not later than 4 days after accumulating P400 reload. The 14-digit number string will expire if not loaded within the defined period. The 100 Free Texts is valid for 30 days from the day it is loaded.
6. The 100 Free Texts is cumulative but not the validity period. The longer validity shall apply.



See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0953 Series of 2006.

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The Most Rev. Ramon C. Arguelles, D.D., Archbishop of Lipa,
The Most Rev. Salvador Q. Quizon, D.D., Former Arch. Bishop of Lipa,
The Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lipa

Together with the Alonzo-Balatibat Family

announce with joy and hope the triumphant crossing over from us
to the everlasting love of the Father of our dear

REV. MSGR. ORLANDO M. BALATIBAT

on 10 March 2006 at the age of 66

Parochial Vicar
Parish Priest
Binaan, Laguna
Laurel (Baybayungon), Batangas
Loriod, Lipa City
Malvar, Batangas
Lemery, Batangas

Parochial Vicar
Episcopal Vicar
Vicar Forane
Professor
Director
San Sebastian Cathedral
Archdiocese of Lipa
Vicariate 6
St. Francis de Sales College Seminary
Lipa Archdiocese
Social Action Commission
Apostleship of Prayer
Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart
Presbyteral Council
College of Consultors
Sta. Tomas, Batangas

Spiritual Director
Member
Attached Priest
His mortal remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel of San
Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated
at the Cathedral at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, 14 March 2006, after which
his mortal remains will be transferred to his birthplace, Liliw,
Laguna.

He will lie in state at St. John the Baptist Parish Church until
Friday, 17 March 2006. The Mass of the Resurrection will be
celebrated at 3:00 pm. Interment follows immediately.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the St. Joseph Seniors, Home for the
Aged and Sick Priests of the Archdiocese of Lipa, will be deeply appreciated.



13th Death Anniversary
of
ATTY. JOSEFINA
SORIANO BILAR

who joined her Creator
on March 12, 1993.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches
today, March 12, 2006.

1. Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church - 8:00 a.m. &
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City 6:00 p.m.
2. Santuario de Sto. Cristo - 11:00 a.m.
Blumentritt, San Juan

May we request relatives and friends
to join us in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Memoriam

CHONA STA. ROMANA-NARCISO

12 March 1953 - 25 February 1988

Her son Victor; sister and brothers Neni and Elfen, Chito
and Nancy, Nelin; nieces and nephews Tanya, Roel, Aina,
Norman, Christopher, and all those dear to Chona request
your continuing prayers for truth, justice and peace.

Chona will be fondly remembered at the 9:30 a.m. and
6:30 p.m. celebrations of the Holy Mass today at the Jesus
the Divine Healer Parish, Tahanan Village, Parañaque

Your support of the Ma. Corazon Lucero Sta. Romana
Commemorative Scholarship administered by the St
Scholastica Research and Development Foundation will be
most appreciated.

In loving memory ...

FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
ADOLFO R. RIVA

(February 2, 1926 - March 16, 2001)

Holy Masses are for his eternal peace and happiness will
be offered on March 16, 2006 at the following Churches:

St. Michael the Archangel Church	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Resurrection	5:30 a.m.
Plaza I, BF Homes, Pique	
Church of the Presentation of the Child Jesus	6:45 a.m.
Pique	
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish	7:00 a.m.
13th Ave., Cubao, Q.C.	
The Shrine of St. Joseph	6:15 a.m.
Aurora Blvd., Proj. 3, Q.C.	
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish	6:00 a.m.
Proj. 4, Q.C.	
Christ the King Church	6:30 a.m.
E. Rodriguez Sr Blvd., Q.C.	
Immaculate Conception Parish	7:00 a.m.
Lantana St., Cubao, Q.C.	
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice	6:00 a.m.
UP Diliman, Q.C.	
St. John the Baptist Parish	5:45 a.m.
Pingatubun, San Juan	
Santuario de San Jose	7:15 a.m.
Greenhills, San Juan	
Mary the Queen Parish	6:00 a.m.
Greenhills, San Juan	
The Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help	5:30 a.m.
Beclaran	
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	5:00 a.m.
Quiapo, Manila	
Parish of St. Augustine	7:00 a.m.
Belusag, Bulacan	
Shrine of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague	6:00 a.m.
Davao City	
St. Michael Cathedral	5:30 p.m.
Toronto, Canada	

His wife Lilia, children Ruby & Manny Gervasio,
Rona Marie, Obet & Mary Ann and grandchildren
Lianne, Dino, Jason, Teddy, Gigi, Roald, Reggie,
Rauza, Gio & Pao request relatives, friends, associates
here & abroad and all those who lives he has touched
to remember him in their prayers.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

STEPHEN U. ONG

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 27, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest
appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in
countless ways, consoled with and comforted us
in our hour bereavement.

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635-0219; 635-0220

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

EUSTAQUIO O. GOKIOCO

July 10, 1911 - February 28, 2006

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who consoled with us, offered
Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave
donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and memorial
services, and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our
moments of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.
We will miss you dearly."

THE HERITAGE PARK
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(1st row) Imelda Limbo, Nanette Abad, Aileen Garcia, Liwayway
Tabaraza, Adela Mendoza, Jocelyn Tabasa, Concepcion Linares, Maja
Deles Reyes, Cristina Asuncion, Lourdes Diaz, Division Head Jesse
Rabustillo. (2nd row) Veronica Fernandez, Arnold Gatdula, Patricia
Molina, Robert Banaag, Evelyn Linares.

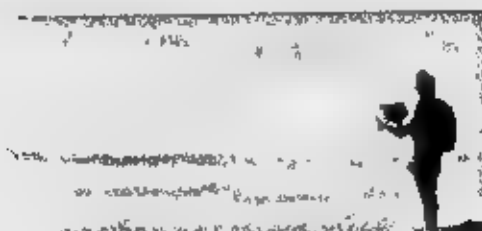


Ileneo Remallita, Mark Sta. Isabel, Erika
Manlapaz, Joyce Monpenhanga, Maja Deles
Reyes, Rading de Jesus, Lala Montalano,
Romina Erandio and Gamma Villapando



Iris Desvarre, Vincent Anosa, Grig Montegrando, Arnel
Santos, Randy Isaac, Carlo Mercado (knocking)

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Software Performance Testing Engineer

- Experience in analyzing and tuning SQL database performance
- Experience in the use of performance measurement tools
- Experience in the use of load testing tools
- Experience in conducting methodical performance evaluations
- Knowledge of Performance Engineering concepts
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Release Manager

- 5 years of relevant experience, including at least 2 years of release/project management and 3 years of development/integration/testing experience with complex software projects.
- Strong experience in Release Management, Quality Assurance and Project Management.
- Experience organizing, planning, and leading multiple projects from initiation through closing
- Knowledge of SEI Capability Maturity Model - Integrated (CMMi), Six Sigma, ISO 9001:2000 etc.
- Experience in software development processes, models, lifecycles and methodologies
- Familiarity with ERP applications domain.

Software Engineer - Integration

- Professional experience in one or more of the following: applicable programming languages, release engineering, software engineering process
- Knowledge of source software configuration management and change management tools and processes.
- Works with senior engineers to ensure project and design fit into the overall build, packaging, and deployment architecture.
- Analyzes and documents impact of the product or feature on other tools and processes.

Senior Software Engineer - Systems

- Five years of systems programming experience.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design, programming and tools
- Significant working experience using UNIX and/or Windows and programming languages such as C/C++, Visual C++, Java and
- Preferably with experience in COBOL, Prolog or any legacy system
- Proficient problem solving, interviewing and fact finding skills
- Strong analytical and technical skills, team work and organizational skills
- Self-motivation and discipline, ability to multi-task
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Applications Software Engineer - Retail Solutions

- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management
- Good working knowledge of object-oriented design, analysis, data structures/algorithms, programming methodologies and tools
- Proven track record in developing and supporting the most complex application programs using various programming languages, technologies and development tools
- Sound knowledge of VB6, Desktop and Webclass/ASP, ADO Connections/Commands/Recordsets, embedded ActiveX controls, HTML, DHTML, JavaScript/VBScript, CSS, SML (XSL/XSLT), VB.Net, Windows and Web Applications, SGV (XML Graphics); C/C++
- Java is required.

Retail Business Systems Analyst

- Application experience specific to retail business systems
- Experience with business object modeling tools and/or entity relationship modeling tools
- Ability to represent requirement and design information in graphical forms that augment textual representations, including using modeling tools and languages already established in the development organization
- Technical knowledge or experience with one or more of the following: web-based business applications, relational databases, and client server architecture
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Technical Writer

- 2 to 8 years technical writing experience, with 2 years software documentation experience
- Ability to write documentation that is technically accurate and conforms to the company's writing style guidelines
- Experience using industry-standard tools such as FrameMaker, RoboHelp, Arbotext, Epic, Dreamweaver, and content management systems
- Experience with markup languages, such as XML, SGML, or HTML
- Experience with graphics tools, such as Visio and Paint Shop Pro
- Experience creating deliverables for audiences ranging from end-user to highly technical
- Strong planning, research, and writing skills
- Ability to perform effectively in a fast-paced, growth-oriented, rapidly changing company. Excellent time management, problem-solving, analytical/critical thinking, organization skills and cross-functional communication experience

Test Center Manager

- Seven years experience in software development preferably with Java, C/C++ and .Net
- Two years of management experience on systems software organizations
- Working knowledge of software development life-cycle.
- Knowledge of test methodology, test design, programming methodologies and tools
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management
- Proven communication skills at all levels (peers, management, customers, and prospects).
- Proven organizational, leadership, and decision making skills.

Senior Software Engineer - Quality

- Proficient creating test designs and test plans and execution of test cases/scripts
- Proficient in understanding integration & regression testing
- Proficient in automation test tools and test framework development
- Proficient in various hardware, operating systems, web/application servers and relational databases, ERP Applications and Microsoft office products
- Experience in structured and object oriented application development and SQL programming
- Experience in various programming languages, such as: C, C++, HTML, Cobol, Visual Basic, and Java
- Experience in white box API level testing and defect tracking
- Knowledge of automated testing tools (Rational Robot, Selenium, WinRunner, etc.)

Support Specialists

- Must be able to support and troubleshoot technologies relating to the following: platforms (UNIX/NT, Windows, and iSeries), networks (Microsoft, etc.), languages (COBOL, RPG, Java, Java Script, XML, and HTML), relational databases (Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, and DB2), Tivoli directory server, Microsoft ADAM, C/S scripting and web technologies.
- Must be able to support Lawson user interfaces utilized on all supported platforms.
- Must possess and demonstrate the ability to perform program analysis, testing and debugging and provide team members with assistance in resolving customer problems.
- Must be able to effectively communicate complex technical information with both internal and external customers
- Must maintain expertise on current and new technologies Advanced ERP (business and technical), WebSphere and/or database experience preferred.

UNIX Systems Administrator

- At least one (1) year of programming experience (ksh, bash)
- Level 1 certification of at least one vendor's Unix operating system and/or equivalent experience
- Solid understanding of general disk management, memory management, process management and general kernel/OS tuning
- Ability to back-up and recover a base server using native OS

Senior Applications Administrator

- At least five (5) years experience in applications administration
- Expertise in one or more of the major UNIX OS's in the industry
- At least five (5) years experience in tuning and configuring large enterprise applications in a live customer environment and benchmark environment

PC Technician

- Two (2) years experience as computer technician.
- Microsoft MCP certification.
- Hardware manufacturer certifications
- Printer training and technical support experience.

Interested candidates may apply at http://www.lawson.com/about/apply_online.shtml

Additionally other positions for Lawson can also be found at that website.

Previous applicants need not re-apply. We will respond to qualified candidates only.

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JOB SCOPE:

- Look for/Identify possible new properties to be leased/rented
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- Coordinate/Negotiate, on behalf of the company, with the property owners the terms and conditions of the lease
- Process/Secure necessary approvals/documentation from various government agencies relative to the smooth flow of negotiations, construction, and business operations
- Assist Project Manager in existing property maintenance

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Business Administration, Management or related course
- At least 5 years experience in Sales, particularly in Real Estate Property
- Experience in hotel and entertainment businesses are preferred
- Comprehensive knowledge of the various existing property and real estate policies/rules and regulations
- Excellent public relations, negotiation skills
- Excellent oral/written communications, and computer skills
- Can work under pressure and long hours to meet set deadline/s

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to

PACIFIC PALM CORPORATION
6/F Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd.,
Malate, Manila or call tel. no. 522-8907 for more information,
or send via e-mail to texdg@pacificpalm.com.ph

WANTED

POSITION

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

QUALIFICATIONS

- Licensed Electrical Engineer for both field and office work
- Possess communication skills in both oral and written English
- Two years related work experience
- Computer literate
- Exposure to mobile equipment / transport industry is highly preferred.
- Willing to undergo training for professional/career advancement in the industry.
- Willing to travel to all parts nationwide ie. Visayas or Mindanao
- A permanent resident of Malabon, Navotas, Manila or Pasay Area.
- Honest, hardworking, healthy, trustworthy and excellent team-player
- Male 25 - 28 years old

Competitive compensation, negotiable

Qualified applicants may send their application letter with 2 x 2 picture, resumé, transcript of records, eligibility and work/character references to PO BOX # 706 Herrera Tower # 88 Herrera St. V.A. Rufino Salcedo Village, Makati City or through ilfmrstr@info.com.ph.

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Initially, no personal applications will be entertained. Instead, please send your resumé to:
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H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
E-mail: coreconsult@pacific.net.ph
Facsimile Machine Number: 894-0733



OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT MANILA INC.

WANTED

(FOR IMMEDIATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT)

RECRUITMENT OFFICER

- Male (not more than 50 years old)
- Licensed DECK OFFICER (at least Chief Officer)
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Adequately familiar with STCW '95 requirements, ISM, ISO, and ISPS Code
- With minimum experience as a recruitment officer in a manning agency.

Interested applicants can bring their pertinent documents and apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT MANILA, INC.
Suite 1208-A Ermita Center Bldg.
1350 Roxas Blvd., Manila
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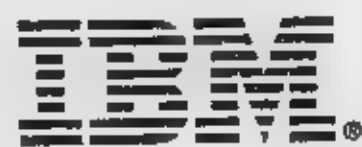
- Minimum of 10 years experience in civil works design of Roads, Site Grading, Drainage, Water and Sewer Systems
- Proficient in AutoCAD and Land Development Autodesk Software
- Familiarity with U.S. standards will be a plus factor

PROJECT SUPPORT STAFF

- Civil Works Design Engineers
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- HR back office support (Speaks German or French)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Headset Support)
- HR back office support (Speaks Thai)
- (Speaks Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Internet Shopping Company (Headset Support)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic environment

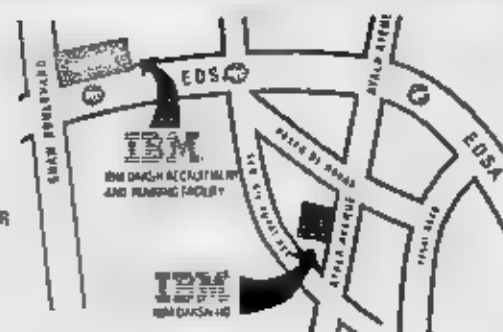
Support & Leadership Posts

- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Deputy General Manager - Quality
- QA Manager - Six Sigma
- Deputy QA Managers
- Strategic QA Specialists
- Employee Relations Associates
- Assistant Manager - IT
- Manager - Events
- Manager - Communications
- Deputy Manager - EOC training
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- Financial Planning Manager
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- Sr. Recruitment Associates - Support and Leadership

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IBM DAKSH RECRUITMENT CENTER
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- Male/Female, 30-45 years old.
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- Must have strong background on central/production planning and project management gained from a manufacturing environment.
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- Graduate of any 4 or 5 year course
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- With strong background in customer service
- With excellent communication skills

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR - OFFICE BUILDINGS (Code: OFBA)

- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- With at least 2 years related experience in property/facilities management
- With excellent communication skills

BUILDING ENGINEER (Code: BE)

- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- With at least 2 years related experience in property/facilities management
- With excellent communication skills

Interested applicants can mail their comprehensive resume together with a copy of the Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture and contact numbers to:

Position Code:

5/F Glorietta 4

Ayala Center, Makati City

Or send it in plain text or MS Word 97 version to Recruitment@ayalaproperty.com.ph

TALK2ME Talk2Me Incorporated

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Full time and can start immediately
At least three (3) months of call center experience in outbound or inbound international calls
Very good communication skills
New graduates from reputable schools, professionals, retirees are all welcome
Excellent customer service and phone sales skills

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Don Bosco Technical Institute, a private Catholic educational institution is in need of individual to fill in the position as:

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

- Female, 24 to 30 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science / Engineering, Information Technology, Computer applications or related course
- Proficient in Visual Basic programming
- Knowledgeable in either MS Access or MySQL database management systems skills
- Preferably knows C++, Java or PHP
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Has excellent interpersonal skills
- At least one year relevant work experience

Interested applicants should personally bring their comprehensive resume, photocopies of transcript of records and diploma to the:

Human Resource Office
Don Bosco Technical Institute
Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City
(In front of Cityland Pasong Tamo)

FINANCE MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant
- With 3 to 5 years experience in cost management systems
- Knowledge of any accounting software, e.g., Quickbooks
- Proficiency in the use of Excel features and commands
- Highly motivated
- Critical thinking, high analytical skills required
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Submit resume pasted onto the body of email to hr@totaltranscription.com
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- Sales Support Representatives
- Team Support Representatives

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ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD POSSESS

- Excellent English skills
- PC, Internet, and Microsoft Excel experience
- College graduate in a business-related field
- Prior call center experience (preferred)
- A desire to have FUN!

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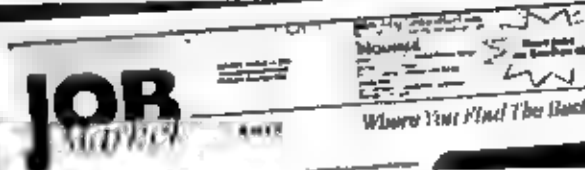
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Applicable in engineering and quality concepts
At least 1 yr experience in an industrial setting

ONE (1) QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER

Male / Female
Graduate of any Engineering course
At least 1 yr work experience in industrial setting
Computer literate
With good communication skills

ONE (1) IT PROGRAMMER

Male 21 yrs above
Computer Science Graduate or any related course
Knowledgeable in VB, Basic 6, Crystal Report 8.5
MySQL Database, Web design, Flash, HTML
Knowledgeable in PC troubleshooting, LAN

FOUR (4) PAINTING OPERATOR

Male 21 years old and above
At least high school graduate
With 1 year experience in painting process
Must have painting skills and basic computer knowledge

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10-Ave. Our Minors Ave.,

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- Male/female, Single
- CPA or Non-CPA
- Computer literate

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- Highschool/Vocational Graduate
- With Driver's License
- Skilled in handling forklift

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BEZ Marvies, Bataan 2108

Or E-mail at: lesliecergado@yahoo.com

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- 1. Resume w/ 1x2 colored picture
- 2. Transcript of Records
- 3. Diploma
- 4. Certificate of Employment (if any)
- 5. NB Clearance
- 6. 2 pcs. of colored picture
- 7. Driver's License

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PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Job Code: PMO

He shall be responsible for managing schedule and manpower requirements in production of contract documents. He shall also undertake quality control in sheet composition, content and consistency in CADD standards.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration preferred
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Excellent communication skills required

CADD DESIGNER

Job Code: CAD

He shall be primarily responsible for generating working drawings.

- College degree in Architecture
- At least 3 years experience in construction documentation for architecture (preferably high-rise) or interior design projects preferred
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Proficiency in modeling and graphic/rendering software an advantage

PROJECT OFFICER / ENGINEER / ARCHITECT

Job Code: PRE

He shall be responsible for construction supervision/inspection. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

- College degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering
- Professional registration preferred
- With 3 years experience
- Exposure in construction & fit-out preferred
- International exposure an advantage
- Computer literacy and proficiency preferred

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Job Code: APM

He/she shall oversee production of contract documents, detailing and specifications writing for various project types. He shall also be responsible for coordination with clients and consultants (MEPS) to ensure architectural design/interior design intent is maintained. He shall be in-charge of final review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 10 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Strong leadership qualities, managerial and organizational skills required
- Has working knowledge of AutoCAD 2004/2005
- International exposure an advantage
- Must be willing to travel abroad
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Code: PRC

He/she shall be responsible for over-all coordination with Client, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/Fire Protection and Structural (MEPS) engineering consultants from conceptual to construction documentation stages. He shall be in-charge of design review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables.

- College degree in Architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Job Code: BDM

He/she will be tasked with identifying client project requirements, preparation of proposals, client representation, company presentations, and other activities related to business development and client maintenance.

- College graduate
- At least 7 years experience in high-level sales and marketing
- Strong knowledge of the industry, preferably with existing contact network
- Effective presentation and communication skills
- Aggressive attitude with pleasing personality

COST ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Job Code: CAO

He/she will be tasked to maintain, monitor and analyze the standard, actual, and budgeted costs of the firm's various projects with varying scope and complexity. He/she will also play a key role in the budgeting process, coordinating with various strategic business and operating units in coming up with flexible budgets.

- College graduate of Accountancy
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least six (6) years experience in Cost Accounting preferably in a project-based service firm
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Highly analytical and process-oriented

IT SUPPORT + DEVELOPER

Job Code: ITS

He/she shall be tasked with providing support for the company's Windows-based infrastructure, as well as the development, maintenance and support of internal information systems, including various database and intranet-based applications.

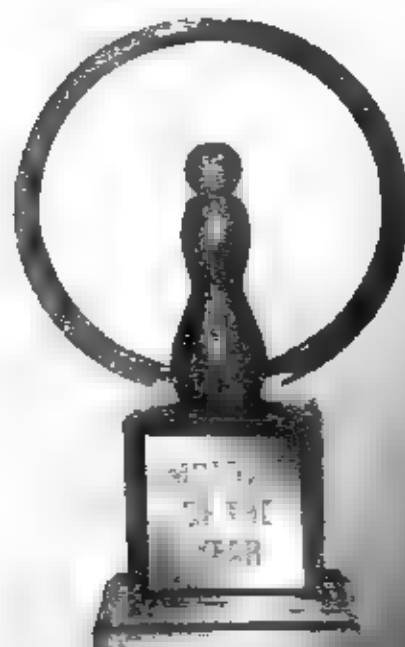
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or related courses from a reputable institution
- 3 years work experience in a fast-paced environment
- Strong background in one or more of the following: PHP, HTML, MS SQL Server, MySQL, and MS Access

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Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Associates

- Administrative Assistant
- Corporate Asset Management Specialist
- Front Desk Associates
- OD Officer (OD Consulting)
- OD Officer (Career Development)
- Payroll Assistants
- Recruiting Specialists
- Applications Developer
- IT Help Desk Associates
- IT Project Leaders
- Senior Applications Developer
- Telecommunications Specialist 3
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The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project Scope of Work

Grants Officer

Background

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

Because of the anticipated volume of contracts to be managed under the project, Chemonics is engaging the services of a Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is expected to participate in specific steps in the grant-making process, namely pre-solicitation, solicitation, review and selection, pre-award, award and post-award stages.

Pre-Solicitation

1. Assist in updating and maintaining the list of associations, business organizations and other non-government organizations which are potential recipient/s of grant solicitations;
2. Assist in organizing and in the actual conduct of pre-award orientations, proposal write shops, etc.; assistance includes documenting the proceedings and/or writing the minutes, and,
3. Assist in the preparation of requests for applications (RFAs) and/or Annual Program Statements (APS).

Solicitation

1. Assist in the issuance of RFAs e.g. preparation of newspaper ads, preparation of letters to partners announcing the solicitation, etc.
2. Assist in following up submission of applications; and,
3. Maintain files of all solicitations and applications received (PRISM grant files).

Review and Selection

1. Check for the completeness of submitted proposals and applications
2. Assist in organizing meetings of Selection Committee which will evaluate applications for grant awards; and,
3. Prepares minutes of selection committee meetings

Award Stage

1. Prepare notification letters for grant recipients
2. Assist in the preparation of the grant agreements

Implementation Stage

1. Maintain all grant files
2. Assist in monitoring compliance of grantees to their contract terms and in following up submission of required periodic reports from grantees
3. Review the completeness and accuracy of documents submitted to facilitate payment orders or requests
4. Update and maintain grants database

Closure

1. Follow up preparation and submission of terminal reports or deliverables
2. Prepare grant completion certificates

Reporting:

The Grants Officer will report directly to Senior Grants Manager

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Minimum of 3 years experience in administering grants or subcontracts under USAID funding
- Knowledge of USAID procurement procedures
- Very skilled in various computer applications
- Good command in written and spoken English
- Has a keen eye for details

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 24th of March 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "Position Code: GO"



USAID
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The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project Scope of Work

Senior Grants Manager

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

The Senior Grants Manager will be responsible for taking the lead role in creating and initiating the grants program and coordinating with PRISM's Senior Technical Directors, Regional Directors, Senior Field Operations Director and Chief of Party or his designee on FP grant-related work.

The following are the principal duties and responsibilities but not limited to:

- Create and oversee overall policies, practices and procedures relating to grants management.
- Create specific procedures relating to grant solicitation and selection, grant awards, grant monitoring and evaluation and grant close-outs.
- Ensure the proper preparation and execution of grant documents and grant disbursements in line with USAID procedures and practices
- Oversee the first few grant cycles to ensure adherence to established USAID and project policies.
- Ensure proper planning and preparation of synopses, agendas, minutes, memos
- Build results and results frameworks into the grants program.
- Analyze, assess, and assist with budgetary and financial aspects of grant proposals, recipient financial management capacities and needs and disbursement of funds/grants.
- Submit proposals to USAID for approval before awarding grants.
- Ensure that the grant recipient have good appreciation of the terms and conditions of the fund/grant as well as the clauses which provide guidelines on amendments, suspension, termination, disputes and other standard provisions in the administration and management of the grants.
- Ensure effective liaison between project staff and grant recipients; ensure that recipients are provided with suitable technical advice and assistance
- Prepare monitoring and evaluation report on a quarterly basis of the outstanding grants to include the problems encountered in the implementation of the grants and the corresponding resolutions.
- Work closely with the Senior Technical Directors, Regional Operations Directors Senior Field Operations Director and Senior Finance and Administration Manager, USAID, and other team members on all matters relating to grants.
- All other duties that will be assigned by the Project Support Unit Director and the Chief of Party or their designee.

Reporting:

The Sr. Grants Manager will report directly to the Director of Project Support and Administrative Unit or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

Job Qualifications:

- This position will require 10+ years of experience and good understanding of donor organizations' procedural requirements in grant administration and management, preferably USAID funded programs.
- Good project management and administrative skills, preferably with respect to managing grant programs.
- Good analytical ability and knowledge of health organizations in the Philippines
- An up-to-date understanding and knowledge of political and social conditions in the Philippines.
- Knowledge of approaches suitable for assessing recipient organizations' grant-worthiness, as well as their financial, administrative and program planning capacities.
- Patience, good humor, and an ability to get along well with people in a team, sometimes in demanding and/or busy circumstances.
- Field experience with NGOs, preferably health organizations, preferably in the Philippines, and experience monitoring and evaluating field projects.

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- Ability to navigate the computer system
- Must be willing to work on varied hours, weekends and holidays
- Must have strong comprehension and listening skills

Inbound Sales Accounts: (for Cainta and Novaliches)

- Preferably a graduate of a 4-yr or 5-yr course
- Must have a minimum of 1 year customer service/sales experience, preferably in a call center setting

Health Care Account: (for Cainta)

- Preferably a graduate of a 4-yr or 5-yr course
- Preferably with 6-month healthcare background
- Must have strong comprehension and listening skills

Inbound CSRs: (Dumaguete)

- Preferably graduate of any 4-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English

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Career Day is on March 18, 2006 (Saturday) from 8:00 am -3:00 pm at the 2nd Floor, Fortune Building, 160 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati.

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INSTRUMENT ENGINEERS

• Experience in the Instrumentation and Control Engineering design in Petroleum Refinery, Petrochemical Plant and related areas. Experienced in Instrument Construction Drawings, Design Documents, Calculations and Material take-off. Has the ability to interpret P&ID, Logic Diagrams and Loop Diagrams. Knowledge in 2D/3D CAD, Microstation, 3D PDS and Inroads would be an advantage.

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• Work experience in Pressure Vessel, Storage Tanks, and/or Heat Exchanger design. Proven ability to perform stress analysis and design input and output checking of people handled.

CIVIL ENGINEERS

• With experience in Civil/Structural Design of structures relating to oil and gas facilities. Ability to prepare structural layout and analysis and design of various structures. Proficient in STAAD Pro. Knowledge in AutoCAD, Microstation, X-Steel and other 3D Engineering tools. Knowledge in PDS and Visual Basic Programming is an advantage. Experience in field engineering.

QA/QC ENGINEERS

• Work experience in Quality Control gained from refinery, petrochemical and industrial projects. Experienced in quality control for material receiving, in-process inspection (welding, dimensional, etc.) and review of quality documents. Knowledge in material testing, NDT results interpretation. Must be conversant with codes and international standards such as AWS, ASME, ASMT etc. Must be knowledgeable in ISO 9001:2000, ISO 14001:2004 and Audit techniques.

Please enclosed a cover/application letter, comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 picture and other credentials to:

P.O. BOX 121
AYALA ALABANG
1799 Marikina City

SR. BUILDING ENGINEERS (Architectural, Structure, Electrical)

• Graduate of Architecture, Civil and Electrical Engineering. With at least 10 years work experience in engineering design and construction of petrochemical-related buildings / facilities. Must be able to prepare Basic and Detailed Design Engineering for building Structural, Electrical and Architectural that includes preparation of drawings, calculations, specs, material requisitions and BOQ. Can operate structural calculation softwares like STAAD, etc. Possess good oral and written English communication skills. Exercises self-discipline, patience and firmness in decision-making. Possess basic management, planning and motivating skills. Knowledge of ISO Quality Management System. Willing to be assigned at local and overseas project site.

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERS

• With experience in Fire Protection Engineer, capable of preparing and reviewing the Fire Protection System Design documents such as General Specification for Active Fire Protection Systems, Specification for Passive Fire Protection system design, Layout Drawings, Fire Protection (Fire Fighting and Fire Alarm & Gas) Systems, Piping & Instrument Diagrams for Fire Fighting System, Block or Schematic Flow Diagram, Fire Protection Equipment Data Sheet (such as sprinkler, monitors, CO2, Dry chemical, Clean Agent, hydrants, fire truck/mobile fire fighting equipment, etc.), Cause and Effect matrix for fire alarm and gas detection systems, firewater system hydraulic calculations (firewater main line and water spray deluge and foam systems), Requisition for Fire Protection Equipment and Technical Evaluation Report. Can review Invitation to Bid (ITB)/Engineering FEED documents and vendor documents review. Able to supervise Fire Protection vendor at site during Commissioning of Fire Protection Systems.

SYSTEM-PACKAGE EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS

• Experience in the field of engineering, proficient in multi-discipline technical coordination. Has specialized skill/technical know-how in system-package technology (e.g. water treatment system, wastewater treatment system, nitrogen generation system, physical dehydration system, etc). Familiar in preparing equipment Specification, Data Sheet and Requisition. Has experience in Technical bid evaluation job and review of vendor documents.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

• With experience in substation design & preparation of power, lighting and grounding layout in oil & gas or petrochemical facilities. Has the ability to perform common electrical calculation, knowledge in ETAP, PDS Intergraph, 3D engineering & associated tools would be an advantage. Must be experienced in field eng'g work such as preparation of field change sheet or site supervision.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must be a graduate of any 5-year engineering course with at least three (3) to fifteen (15) years relevant work experience. Possesses excellent coordination & communication skills, pro-active & can handle stress & pressure, proficient with the latest and relevant software in their respective field of expertise.

Foreign nationals and Filipino engineers working overseas who want to return to Philippines are welcome to apply. Attractive compensation awaits the successful applicants.

STAM BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS, INC.

Is looking for Dedicated

LICENSED CIVIL / AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

BASIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of Civil or Agricultural Engineering; with good academic records.
- Minimum of 5 years hands-on experience with land development works and horizontal construction. Experience with reputable construction companies would be a plus.
- Must be adept in road construction & maintenance, site grading works, water impound dams and maintenance of heavy equipment.
- Must be willing to be based in the farm (1 1/2 hr from Cagayan De Oro). Willing to work on-site 6 days a week.
- A good working knowledge on basic surveying would be an added advantage.

****We will offer competitive salary (with staff house facility) to the Qualified Applicant.**

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUME WITH PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
(CODE: CIVIL/AGRI ENGINEERS)
80 Rocas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Or Email: tink.shelley@gmail.com

**Previous applicants need not apply.*

JOB OPENING

CIVIL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- MALE/FEMALE W/O R/W LICENSE 22 to 30 years old
 - COMPUTER LITERATE, KNOWLEDGE IN AUTOCAD
 - ADVANTAGE
 - PREFERABLY RESIDENT OF ANTIPOLO, CALITA AND
- BRING YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH 2x2 PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AT:
GLOVETT CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION
OFFICE #6 MICHAEL ST., KINGSVILLE SUBD. ANTIPOLO CITY
(LOOK FOR MR. ROY EUGENIO OR DENNIS DE LEON)
TEL. 044-511 9111

WE ARE EXPANDING

SALES EXECUTIVE / PRODUCT MANAGERS

Must be Electrical/Electronic Engineering Graduate. At least 3-4 years experience in instrument sales. Male/Female, 25-35 years of age. Must be result-oriented self-starter with integrity and discipline. Excellent communication & presentation skills. Valid driving license.

Please submit your Resume at:
SENSING TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION
457-B Boni Avenue New Zunga
Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 532-0088, 533-5977, 535-5647

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METRO MANILA BRANCHES AND NEW BRANCHES
(CEBU LAPU-LAPU, DAVAO, MAGSAYSAY, URDANETA PANGASINAN,
SAN PABLO LAGUNA AND BAGUIO)

BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch
- Graduate of any 4 year business course

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE

- Will be responsible for handling and processing account opening and other bank products
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in Bank Branch Operations for at least 1 year will be preferred

BRANCH SALES OFFICER

- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCH SALES SPECIALISTS

- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, accounts opened and volume of funds generated
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales

BRANCH SERVICE HEAD

- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCH RELATIONSHIP OFFICER

- Will be responsible in formulating plans and strategies to expand relationships within the bank's target market and for implementing of strategies for the branch target marketing in accordance with the Branch Sales Plan
- Experience in a sales function gained from a bank or other financial institutions for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCH HEAD

- Current holder of the position in a Universal/ Commercial Bank for at least 3 years

HEAD OFFICE

SENIOR RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATE

- Will be responsible in special sourcing, evaluating and hiring competent and service-oriented officers and staff
- Graduate of BS Psychology
- Knowledge in Targeted Selection will be an advantage
- Experience in a bank set-up will be preferred

ACCOUNTING ANALYSTS

- Will be responsible for the preparation of the Bank's financial/internal/external regulatory reports or to handle Treasury/Trust Accounting transactions
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in MS Office Applications
- Experience in Banking will be preferred

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ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES (Kalookan)

- Will be responsible in assisting Account Officers in servicing of accounts and handling of the documentation of accounts
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Must possess good analytical skills, good communication skills, highly developed interpersonal skills and a high sense of responsibility

TRUST INVESTMENT OFFICER (Additional personnel to handle growing business)

- Will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust & Investment Center's unit investment trust funds (UITFs) with particular focus on the fixed income fund
- Will provide strategic input on portfolio construction and develop acquisition and exit strategies for core positions

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Compose regular market reviews and outlook prices
- Provide analytical support in developing investment policies and guidelines (e.g. asset allocation, active/passive mix and performance attribution)
- Analyze portfolio performance versus long term objectives; Perform attribution analysis by identifying key variances and determining causal factors
- Work with marketing and sales channels on providing fund/market information to support the sales and marketing effort e.g. overall investment style, key strategy points, etc.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of business related degree from top university; CFA charterholder (or level 2 candidate) is highly desirable
- 3-5 years relevant investment analysis, equity research, asset allocation, portfolio management or investment consulting experience
- Must possess excellent quantitative, writing and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to work in a cross-functional environment

ACCOUNT OFFICER - Acquired Assets (Cebu)

- Will be responsible in the marketing and selling of all industrial and agricultural ROPOA assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course, preferably Marketing
- Experience in conducting market/feasibility studies will be preferred

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- Will be responsible in translating system specifications into technical specifications & writing program codes
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT related course
- Experience in Banking will be preferred

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

- Will be responsible in evaluating branches to ensure adherence to policies and procedures and to ensure standard implementation of procedures
- Graduate of any 4 year business related course, preferably BS Accountancy
- Experience in a similar function will be preferred

TREASURY, TRUST, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TRAINEE

- Will undergo training on all Treasury, Trust operations, processes and flow. Qualified trainees will become Treasury, Trust Officers after completion of (1) one year training program
- Graduate of any 4 year business course; with good scholastic records
- Must possess good analytical skills, good communication skills, highly developed interpersonal skills and a high sense of responsibility

- Will be responsible in soliciting auto loan applications from various Car Dealers
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in auto loans marketing/operations will be an advantage

Be a part of a company with Global Standards, currently being benchmarked in Service & Competence.

Interested parties are requested to send their comprehensive resume to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

(POSITION APPLIED FOR)

International Exchange Bank, Recruitment & Placement Sector
4/F, iBank Exchange Building, 142 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

E-mail address: jobs@ibank.com.ph

Visit our website at www.ibank.com.ph



Schneider Electric (Philippines), Inc., is a multinational-owned organization engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of High Quality Electrical Equipments, and a worldwide leader in Power Distribution, Industrial Control, Automation System, Wiring accessories and Data Communication Devices. We are looking for highly motivated individual to drive the business in North Luzon area and the NCR.

Senior Sales Engineer (1)

Area of Coverage: National Accounts & NCR End Users

Key Responsibilities

- Promotion of Schneider Electric's Power Distribution, Industrial Controls and Automation core products, systems and solutions to both industrial end users, National Accounts and selected targeted industries.
- Periodic review of sales with the assigned accounts and prioritization of commercial activities in line with the objective of growing the business.
- Regular consultation with the geographical end user team in defining the strategy and recommending commercial actions to meet the set goals.
- Provide and do a presentation of the business update on accounts covered as required during Country level and South East Asia Regional meetings.
- Organize and coordinate National level meetings and trainings for assigned end user accounts.
- Coordinate inter-departmental support to ensure commitments to customers are met.

Our Requirement

- Must be an EE or ECE graduate, with at least 5 years of successful experience in sales or marketing position.
- Must have strong leadership qualities, highly motivated, team player, goal-oriented, good moral character and success-driven individual.
- First rated in oral and written communication skills
- MS Word, Excel & Power Point Proficient

Sales Engineer (1)

Area of Coverage: North Luzon

Key Responsibilities

- Promotion of Schneider Electric's Power Distribution, Industrial Controls and Automation core products, systems and solutions to selected industrial end users in North Luzon.
- Periodic business review within the assigned area of coverage and prioritization of commercial activities in line with the objective of growing the business.
- To define strategy and recommend commercial actions to meet the goals set.
- Provide and do a presentation of the business update on covered accounts as required during every Country business review.
- Organize and coordinate inter-departmental support for product presentations and trainings within the covered region.
- Coordinate technical service support for any after sales issues on the use of Schneider Electric products and/or systems

Our Requirement

- Must be a resident of Bulacan, Pampanga or Tarlac or willing to be relocated in the said provinces
- Must be an EE or ECE graduate, with at least 5 years of successful experience in sales or marketing position.
- Must have strong leadership qualities, highly motivated, team player, goal-oriented, good moral character and success-driven individual.
- First rated in oral and written communication skills
- MS Word, Excel & Power Point Proficient

Competitive compensation package and appropriate training await the successful candidates. Interested applicants are requested to please send Resume complete with recent photo and copy of school records, stating current and expected salary to:

The Human Resources
Schneider Electric (Philippines), Inc.
5th Floor Alco Building, 391 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue,
MAKATI CITY 1209
Lucky.perlo@ph.schneider-electric.com

IMMIGRATE TO CANADA

FREE SEMINARS every Saturday @10am & every Wednesday @3pm-ONLY INVESTORS & BUSINESS PROGRAMS ON THE FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL LEVEL - PRIORITY PROCESSING-PROVINCIAL NOMINEES (less 1yr process); SPOUSES, PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS, SKILLED WORKERS, ENTREPRENEURS, SELF-EMPLOYED & INVESTORS
Standard Immigration Services Inc. • Suite 701, 7th St. Marikina City
Ortigas Ave. Pasig Tel: (632) 631-4863. Tel/Fax: (632) 638-4774
Tel: 63917-8188180; Email: standardimmigration@yahoo.com
www.standardimmigration.com

KIA ALPHA PHILMOTOR SALES CORP.

IN 16 PROVINCES

MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

MALE/FEMALE,
SALES EXPERIENCE IS AN ADVANTAGE.
PREFERABLY RESIDENTS OF PASAY,
MAKATI OR PARAÑAQUE

APPLY AT:
KIA PASAY
2316 Amorsolo Blvd., formerly Triunfo, Pasay City
Tel. No. 852-1552/854-5936

A Fast-growing

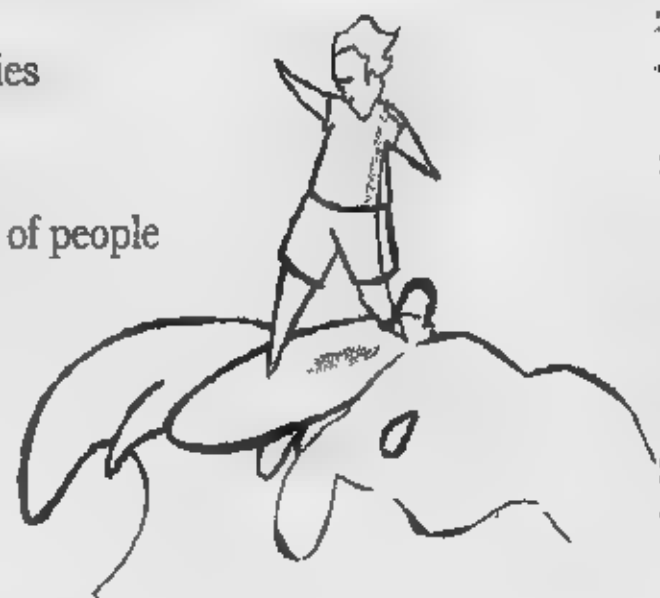
Multinational firm

is looking to make

waves in the country

Sales Managers

- Graduates of the top universities
- 30 - 40 years old
- Monthly income of P30,000
- Able to handle diverse groups of people
- Strong sales experience
- Pleasing personality



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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

E-mail address: isisearch18@gmail.com

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Call Center Associate

Work from home, flexible hours, no experience needed

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 3 years experience in customer service • Graduate of English Language • Graduate of Business Administration • Graduate of Accountancy or related Finance course and preferably with Master's degree • Must be computer literate and adept with presentations • With excellent oral and written communication skills and impeccable leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 3 years experience in customer service • Graduate of English Language • Graduate of Business Administration • Graduate of Accountancy or related Finance course and preferably with Master's degree • Must be computer literate and adept with presentations • With excellent oral and written communication skills and impeccable leadership |
|--|--|

agilis

A LARGE MANUFACTURING ORGANIZATION IN ASIA

Is looking for the following Top-Notch Management Team Members:

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Minimum 3 years extensive experience on financial analysis in a large corporation.
- Graduate of Accountancy or related Finance course and preferably with Master's degree.
- Must be computer literate and adept with presentations.
- With excellent oral and written communications skills and impeccable leadership.

MARKET PLANNING & RESEARCH OFFICERS

- Minimum 3 years experience on market research.
- Graduate of B.S. Statistics or any related Business course.
- Must have extensive knowledge on profitability & market analysis, market surveys & research, and market demand forecast.
- With excellent communication and analytical skills.

PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT SPECIALISTS

- B.S. Industrial Engineering graduate with minimum 5 years hands-on work experience in an industrial / manufacturing plant
- With good exposure on various productivity improvement programs, strategic planning, time & motion studies, and others.
- With very good interpersonal, communication and computer skills.

WE OFFER TOP-OF-THE-LINE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE PLUS VERY ATTRACTIVE PERKS AND PRIVILEGES.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL APPLICATIONS TO:

callcenter.qc@gmail.com

- All Applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.
- We will only reply to short-listed candidates.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

If you are career-driven, goal-oriented, motivated, professional, an achiever, with a proven track record in sales and customer service, have exceptional english communication skills both written and oral, internet & pc savvy

YOU CAN EARN UP TO
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Bel-Air II, Makati City 1203.
Tel: + 63 898 3848
Email: recruitment@seacom.ph

Company Profile: Lake Washington Communications, Inc., formerly Seattle Communication Services, is an e-commerce firm that handles the back-end operations of several US-based websites. We engage in order processing and fulfillment, web design sales and customer management of a number of online retail stores. With our parent company based in Bellevue, Washington, Lake Washington Communications, Inc. is geared towards providing excellent and high quality 24/7 support to online consumers via voice, e-mail and chat facilities.

MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1

MONSTER RADIO STATIONS IN CEBU AND DAVAO ARE INVITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

STATION MANAGER

(CEBU, DAVAO)

- AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY.
- PREFERABLY WITH EXPERIENCE IN SALES AND EVENTS
- BROADCAST PROGRAMS MANAGEMENT IS AN ADVANTAGE

SALES MANAGER & ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(CEBU)

- EXPERIENCE IN BROADCAST SALES IS AN ADVANTAGE
- PERSONABLE, WITH EXCELLENT PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS WITH PRIOR SALES EXPERIENCE
- ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED

DISC JOCKEYS / NEWSCASTERS

(CEBU, DAVAO)

- MUST BE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH
- EXPERIENCE IN RADIO BROADCASTING IS AN ADVANTAGE

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

(CEBU, DAVAO)

- EXPERIENCE IN MULTI-TRACK COMPUTER EDITING
- ABILITY TO CONCEPTUALIZE RADIO PRODUCTIONS AND COMMERCIALS

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATORS INC.
MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1
17TH FLOOR STRATA 2000 BUILDING,
EMERALD AVENUE PASIG, METRO MANILA
OR E-MAIL JOBS@MONSTERRADIO.FM

The British Council in the Philippines connects people with learning opportunities and creative ideas from the UK. Our aim is to build lasting relationships between the UK and the Philippines.

We are interested in filling the post of:

Examinations Services Officer (Ref: ESO-01)

This post will provide effective service support to the Examinations Services Department.

The successful applicant must be a college graduate with at least 3 years working experience and should be able to demonstrate:

- achievement (ability to get things done)
- professional confidence
- strong customer service orientation
- team working
- flexibility
- administrative skills
- intermediate level IT literacy
- excellent written and oral communication skills in English

It is desirable that the applicant has experience working for an international organisation and/or in marketing.

For full information and to download an application form, please visit our website

www.britishcouncil.org.ph

Completed application forms should be sent to HR@britishcouncil.org.ph indicating subject reference number. For applicants without access to the internet, application forms will be available at British Council Knowledge & Learning Centre, 10th Floor, Tapan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. No further documentation need be submitted.

Closing date: 18th March 2006

BRITISH COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING SALES SUPERVISOR

A leading distributor of automotive products is in need of a Sales Supervisor to head our Sales Department with a team of Sales Representatives covering Metro Manila and Provincial areas. The applicant must be at least 35 years old, male, a graduate of Marketing or any related course from a reputable school, with good scholastic records and must be very knowledgeable about cars, motor car components, car accessories, car performance/care products and with a total fervor for cars and motor sports. He must have a good exposure in wholesale, retail, and concessions operations.

Interested applicants must send an application letter, resumé, and colored 2 x 2 photo, transcript of records, and other pertinent documents to:

THE HR / RECRUITMENT OFFICER
P. O. BOX 1785
Manila

Arrow Freight Corporation (AFC)
A Total Logistics Company
is in need of:

PROJECT EMPLOYEE

- Industrial Engineering graduate
- At least 25 years old
- Preferably with experience in logistics operations

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- To conduct Time and Motion Study.
- To establish standard output.

DIESEL MECHANIC

- College or Vocational Grad.
- Not more than 30 years old
- Knowledge in diesel engine overhauling
- At least one (1) year experience

Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested applicants may send comprehensive resumé at:

e-mail: arrow@netgazer.com.ph
or apply at:
368 F. San Diego Street, Velinte Renteria,
Venzuela City
or contact our trunkline 284-94-0203, 294-93-97

China Bank. Getting stronger and bigger. Join us and be part of our growing network.

BRANCH MANAGERS (BM-03-06)

(For Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao Areas)

- Above average business and entrepreneurial skills
- With in-depth knowledge of marketing, credit and lending
- At least five (5) years experience as a Branch Manager in a universal / commercial bank

BRANCH CASHIERS / SERVICE OFFICERS (BC-03-06)

(For Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao Areas)

- Business course graduate
- With extensive experience in cash operations
- Possess good marketing / selling skills

BRANCH ACCOUNTANTS (BA-03-06)

(For Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao Areas)

- At least three (3) years Branch Operations or Audit experience
- Certified Public Accountant
- Assertive, meticulous and control-oriented

BUSINESS PROCESS OFFICER - SYSTEMS & METHODS (BPO-Systems-03-06)

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Accountancy or similar background
- Preferably a CPA, if accounting graduate
- At least 3 years experience in project management and in leading teams
- At least 2 years experience in continuous improvement activities in banking
- Must be experienced in standards setting (time and motion study, methods analysis) and reengineering

METHODS OFFICER - SYSTEMS & METHODS (MO-Systems-03-06)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Industrial Engineering or Accountancy
- Preferably a CPA, if accounting graduate
- At least 3 years experience in process analysis and documentation of banking operations
- Must have skills in analysis of workflow / processes
- Must be able to initiate improvement through work simplification or automation

PROJECT MANAGERS (PM-03-06)

- At least 5 years experience in Software Analysis and design
- At least 5 years experience in Project Management in a banking environment
- Working knowledge of multiple programming languages and operating systems and RDBMS

PROGRAMMERS (PROG-03-06)

- At least a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Computer / Telecommunication), Computer Science / Information Technology or equivalent course
- Knowledgeable in at least two of the following programming languages: C/C++, Java, Visual Basic, SQL and UBI
- Fresh graduates may apply

SALES OFFICERS FOR HEAD OFFICE, BINONDO & BRANCHES (SO-03-06)

- Marketing experience preferably with deposit portfolio
- With proven track record in account acquisition and maintenance
- With excellent communication & presentation skills
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo branches

ACCOUNT OFFICERS FOR HEAD OFFICE & BINONDO (AO-03-06)

(For Account Management, Business Development, Consumer Banking)

- With three (3) to five (5) years experience in Marketing / Credit / Lending
- For Consumer Banking, should be knowledgeable in property appraisal
- With excellent marketing & negotiation skills
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo branches

MARKETING OFFICERS (MO-03-06)

(For Private Banking, Remittance, Treasury Marketing - Binondo Business Center and Insurance - Cebu)

- With three (3) to five (5) years banking experience in related fields
- Excellent negotiation, presentation and analytical skills
- Aggressive, marketing and results-oriented
- For Private Banking, should have knowledge of investments
- For Insurance, at least 5 years experience as a broker
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo and Private Banking
- Not more than 35 years old

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS HEAD (FAH-03-06)

- With more than 5 years of substantial experience in Credit Evaluation, primarily involving medium to large corporations and financial institutions
- Graduate of Business Administration / Management, Accountancy, Finance or Economics

CREDIT DOCUMENTATION UNIT HEAD (CDH-03-06)

- With more than 5 years of substantial experience in Credit Documentation
- Graduate of Business Administration or Legal Management, MBA, LLB or JD would be an advantage
- Familiar with relevant external regulations involving credit documentation requirements
- With good process management skills

CREDIT REVIEW OFFICERS (CRO-03-06)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- At least 2 years of Credit Review or Audit experience in a financial institution
- Familiar with credit lending process

REMEDIAL ACCOUNT OFFICERS (RAO-03-06)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- At least three (3) years actual remedial management experience in a financial institution
- With strong negotiating and transaction structuring abilities

SALES ASSOCIATES (SA-03-06)

- Fresh graduates may apply
- Customer service-driven
- With keen interest in selling & dealing with people
- Pleasing and assertive personality
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo branches

Please send your resumé (with position code indicated at the upper right hand corner), transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo on or before April 17, 2006 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

12th Floor, China Bank Bldg., 8745 Paseo de Roxas corner Villar Street, Makati City
Or via Email: recruitment@chinabank.ph with position code indicated on the subject line.

We are a prestigious condominium serving the discriminating needs of VIPs and foreign nationals. Our current vacancy can provide excellent employment opportunities for persons answering the following qualifications

- Accounting Manager:** Female, 25 years old and above, CPA, with at least 3 years experience in managing collection, OPEX / CAPEX and accounting functions in a property management setting. Good interpersonal skills, above-average communication talents and self motivation are must-have traits.
- Operations Manager:** Male, 30 years old and above, with at least 5 years relevant experience in running daily operations related to property management, self-starter, excellent people management skills and must have good interpersonal skills. Graduates of engineering, business administration or law are preferred.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé not later than March 18, 2006 to Box No. 158, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ground Floor, Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City

FREELANCE WRITERS PHP 15,000/Assignment

Your assignment is to write 100 short articles of 300 words on given topics

We are looking for diligent, reliable people. Must have a flair for writing, reading and acquiring knowledge on various subjects. Must have access to the internet. Work from home Flexi hours. University students are encouraged.

SIGN UP NOW
WWW.WRITE4PESOS.COM

YSTILO

SALON YSTILO SALON CORPORATION

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with at least 2 years working experience
- Able to achieve problems analytically, creatively and effectively
- Has a good oral and written communication skills
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure
- E-mail your resumé accountingassistrd@ystilosalon.com

STORE MANAGERS (Female)

- BS Management Graduate or any related course with or without salon experience
- Has an excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Tagalog
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport with co-employees
- With pleasing personality
- Preferably with experience in fastfood chains
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure
- Computer literate and willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed
- E-mail your resumé storemanager2rd@ystilosalon.com

RECEPTIONISTS (Female)

- College Level Graduate
- Has good oral and written communication skills.
- With pleasing personality
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy
- Computer literate
- E-mail your resumé receptionist3rd@ystilosalon.com

Senior/Junior Stylists

Interested qualified applicants may send their resumé at:
Unit 1601, West Trade Center, 132 West Avenue, 1109 Quizon City.
Tel. No. 374-7149 to 51 / 426-4891



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TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES/PRODUCT SPECIALIST
FOR NORTHERN/SOUTHERN LUZON AND MANILA

A) MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

- willing to adapt and learn the functions of new technologies and medical equipment.

ANALYTICAL DEPARTMENT

- with background in Natural Sciences and Chemistry, and Medical technology.
- experience in Microscopy and its applications is an advantage.

B) SURGICAL DEPARTMENT

- with background in Medical Technology, ECE graduate

Applicants must be:

- male/female, 23-35 years old
- with pleasing personality
- college education
- must be independent, self starter, hardworking and very determined to excel in the field.
- can communicate well on both written and spoken English
- knowledge in computer and with a valid driver's license.
- willing and physically fit to travel frequently (local and abroad)
- preferably with sales experience.

We offer good compensation package plus commission.

C) ACCOUNTANT

- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- CPA
- With at least one year experience in general accounting procedures and cost accounting.
- With proficient business writing ability.
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office.
- User of computerized accounting system, an advantage.
- Can work with minimum supervision.

D) SUPPORT STAFF

- female, 25-30 years old
- college graduate
- computer literate
- knows how to compose business correspondence
- can communicate well on both written and spoken English

You may apply via online or you may send your application with I.D. picture, resume, and transcript of records to:

HRO DEPT.
MICROLAB
2636 Tramo Line cor. Alvarado St.
Pasay City, P.O. BOX 3765 Manila
microlabhills@att.net

Previous applicants need not apply.

The Leading Fair Trade Organization in the country is looking for committed and highly qualified individuals to handle the following positions:

FAIR TRADE ORGANIZATION

- Business Graduate with 4-5 years of successful working experience preferably in a food related business
- Experience in marketing consumer products, distribution and supply chain
- Working knowledge in Food Product Development
- Experience in an NGO or development set-up is an advantage
- International exposure to food and craft markets is an advantage
- Flexible and can travel
- Team-player with excellent inter-personal skills

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION SPECIALIST

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Economics, Development Management and related field
- At least three (3) years of experience with development program activity and one (1) year of directly related professional experience in fundraising
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Computer literate and knowledgeable in Accounting and Finance
- Research skills
- Knowledge in overseas development work particularly in the field of enterprise development and fair trade

HR AND ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST

- BS in Psychology, Management, Social Science, Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Development Communications, Education and other related fields
- At least five (5) years of work experience in human resources, personnel management, industrial relations, education and training
- Working knowledge on salary and benefits analysis
- With substantial administrative and management experience in NGO or any related industry
- Excellent interpersonal relations
- Excellent written and oral communications

MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSISTANT

- BS Computer Science or Information Technology or Computer Engineering
- At least three (3) years of MIS or IT or Computer related experience
- Preferably with experience in Corporate Planning Work

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Bachelors degree in Business Administration/Management or other related field
- At least 1-2 years of working experience
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Interested applicants are required to send a letter of intent and comprehensive resume to: ptq@apfi.org.ph or to trogel@apfi.org.ph not later than March 17, 2006.

You can also fax your resume to (02) 454-1557. We will only respond to qualified applicants.

We are a gender-fair organization.



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a global intermediary development organization working in several countries with the poor and their communities as our partner, enabling them to improve their lives and achieve their full potential. At present, IIRR is seeking to fill the post of:

Program Specialist Water/Watershed Management

The Program Specialist, Water/Watershed Management is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and coordinating program activities particularly, but not solely, those focusing on water resources and watershed management consistent with regional center program goals and objectives. As a member of one or more program teams, the post provides process-based and technical inputs and resources to field program initiatives, education & training activities and publication & communication processes. Other key responsibilities include identifying and implementing suitable action research and documenting experiences and lessons learned, contributing to the development and implementation of planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning at the project and program levels, and identifying opportunities for generating resources and developing concept notes, project proposals and other relevant tools for resource development.

The successful candidates should have the following, at least five (5) years experience in water resources/watershed management program planning, monitoring and evaluation within a rural development framework. Preferably, with work experience outside of your own culture (i.e., regional or international experience); a degree in agriculture, soil and water management or other related discipline; Master's degree preferred; excellent written and oral communication skills in English, with knowledge of one or more Asian languages a plus; strong analytical skills; demonstrated ability in conceptual and operational skills suited to rural development programs and projects; knowledge or experience in action research methodologies; familiarity with methods, tools and techniques in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation; a team player and ability to work productively with teams; ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary and multicultural work environment; and computer proficient.

This post reports to the Director, Regional Center for Asia and is based in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest not later than March 31, 2006, together with curriculum vitae; contact information; and three letters of references with address and contact numbers to:

The Human Resources Office
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Telephone/Fax: (+6346) 414 2417/(+632) 886 4385 to 87
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org or visit our website: www.iirr.org

We will respond only to short-listed candidates.

IIRR is an equal opportunity employer.

THE NEWEST HEALTH CLUB IN PARAÑAQUE IS SOON TO OPEN

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FF

- **FEMALE THERAPIST** - 18 to 25 years old
- **ACCOUNTANT** - Accounting graduate, at least 2 years working experience
- **HEALTH CLUB SUPERVISORS** - male not more than 30 years old
- **ROOM BOYS** - w/ experience at least high school graduate
- **JANITORS** - w/ experience at least high school graduate
- **ASSISTANT COOK** - w/ experience
- **DISH WASHERS** - at least high school graduate
- **VALET PARKERS**
- **MAKE-UP ARTIST**
- **BAR BOYS** - w/ experience
- **DOORMAN** - 5'6" and above
- **STOCKMAN** - w/ experience

Applicants may bring their resumé w/ 2x2 picture on March 13, 2006, 9:00 a.m. onwards at Poseidon Health Club, Coastal Mall, Brgy. Tambo, Parañaque City

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We are a PEZA-registered company located in RCBC Plaza, Makati City. We are pioneers in providing cutting-edge service for English as a Second Language to our clients in Korea. We aim for international standards in our programs, and are looking for:

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We offer

- ✓ Full-time (5AM-2PM or 2PM-11PM) and Part-time (5AM-9AM / 5PM-11PM / 6 PM-11PM / 7PM-11PM)
- ✓ Competitive Compensation and Benefits
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- ✓ Excellent Working Environment
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Requirements

- Passionate about teaching
- Preferably ages 20-35 yrs. old
- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Education, English, Literature, Communication Arts
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- With an American Accent (an advantage)
- Computer Literate

Responsibilities

- Teaches English as a Second Language (ESL)
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Email resumé to recruitment.ildaell@yahoo.com (text only) or drop off resumé at the 28th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City Tel No. 8451026 / 8451040

www.callstudy.co.kr www.i-bizacademy.com www.thameschool.com



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pamantasan Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-BRD) towards the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites individual Propponents for the hiring of a Brand Value Management Specialist to assist the KC National Project Management Office (NPMO) in devising a brand strategy that will guide the development and management of the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKR Brand.

The Brand Value Management Specialist shall deliver the following outputs:

1. Reports
 - KALAHI-CIDSS Brand Strategy Report
 - Guidelines on internal brand alignment
 - Guidelines on Project Verbal Identity
 - Guidelines on the Use of the Project Visual Identity System
2. Creatives
 - Project Visual Identity System Designs and Templates
 - Project colors
 - Logo
 - Nameplate
 - Templates
 - Subproject marker
 - Subproject billboard
 - KC Municipality billboard
 - Stationery
 - Letterheads
 - Calling cards
 - Other visual communications materials recommended by the Brand Strategy Report

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit an Expression of interest:

- Two (2) years experience in Brand Management
- Experience in brand value management consultancy for development oriented organizations

Interested Applicants may submit a written Expression of Interest and Comprehensive Resumé to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd floor (Old Building), DSWD Central Office, Batasan Pamantasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 931-8101 local 217 or telefax no. 951-71-15 until March 17, 2006 at 5:00 P.M.

(Sgd.) DELIA BAWAN
Asst. Director and
BAC Vice Chairperson

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING An exclusive distributor of a premium brand agricultural Irrigation system is looking for a SENIOR SALES STAFF

with the following qualifications:

- Between 25-40 years old,
- Must be a licensed Engineer (Mechanical or Civil Engineer preferred),
- Must have at least 2 years experience in sprinkler / drip irrigation systems;
- Must be computer literate;
- Preferably with sales experience and willing to travel in Mindanao,
- Successful candidate must be willing to relocate to Davao City.

Interested applicants are invited to handcarry their application letter (with colored photo), bio-data and transcript of records to:

INTERNATIONAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION
155 Panay Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 929-3547 to 49

A well-established Agribusiness Equipment company has immediate opening for ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with initiative
- With 1-2 years work experience, below 30 yrs. old
- Computer literate
- Good opportunity with a very stable company

Please send your Resumé and Transcript of Records to:
M.C.P.O. Box 2258 Makati City 1262

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT IN A LAW FIRM

ASSOCIATE LAWYERS

- 1) preferably U.P. or ATENEO graduates
- 2) minimum of 2 yrs. experience in litigation

LEGAL SECRETARIES

- 1) w/ pleasing personality
- 2) must be computer literate
- 3) w/ experience working in a law firm

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications & resumé at Suite 806, Park Trade Center Bldg., 1716 Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Email address: barbsala@yahoo.com



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Batasan Pamantasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Q.C.,
Tel. No. 931-8101 to 07

NOTICE OF VACANCY

In compliance with the provisions of RA 7041 the Department of Social Welfare and Development has a vacant Director III position with the following qualification standard:

(1) **DIRECTOR III, SG-27, WITH ITEM NO. DSEC-DSWDB-DIR3-69-2004 (Policy Development and Planning Bureau)**

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Education | Master's degree |
| Experience | • 1 year experience in management; 2 years experience in strategic planning, policy analysis and development, logical framework development, relevant experiences in project development, project proposal packaging and resource generation fund accessing |
| Training | • 24 hours of training relevant to planning, policy analysis and development and logical framework development |
| Eligibility | • Career Service Executive (CSEE) / Career Executive Service preferably |
- Interested applicants may submit their application and comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture to the Director, Human Resource Management Development Service, DSWD on or before March 24, 2006.

(Sgd.) MARIE ANGELA S. GOPALAN
Director HRMDS

SEND YOUR RESUMES INSTANTLY

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com



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We have an aggressive ramp up to meet our growing business and demanding customer needs — and we want you on board as soon as possible. Earn up to Php 15,000 cash, depending on your qualifications and hiring date.

Compensation Package

We believe in active responsibility for both business targets and people. We are competitive — our compensation and benefits packages will prove it.

Performance Incentive

We reward performance. Our quarterly incentive scheme will entitle you to earn additional income based on performance achievements.

Employee Referral Program

Our employees know us best. Successful referrals from employees are entitled to a rewards program worth at least Php 5,000 cash, plus gift certificates worthy of the latest gadget.

Health and Well Being

Your health is important to us. And because the health of your dependents is also a concern, we will cover them with our medical plan upon your permanent employment.

Provident Plan

We care for your future. While a big pay check is good for the short term, we want you to start going beyond. Our provident plan lets you save up for the rainy days, and your investment will be matched by the Company. If you stay with us, you have the chance to double your savings.

Career Advancement

We are Siemens. We have been around for more than 150 years in 190 countries. For one, our IT outsourcing services spans five continents and 64 countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Singapore, and now the Philippines.

While your career choices and advancement are partly your personal initiative, the opportunities we provide are endless.

Join us.

Technical Solutions Specialists

Basic level

- Solid IT background and excellent hardware, software and network troubleshooting skills
- At least one year of call center experience providing IT support
- Strong customer service orientation
- Excellent English communication skills
- Willing to work on shifts

Advanced level

Proficiency in Operating Systems and Networks, Groupware, Internetworking / VPN, Lotus Notes, Database and Proprietary Software, in addition to qualifications for the basic level.

Eastwood City Cyberpark Site & Recruitment Center

30/F Cyber One Building
Eastwood City Cyberpark
Libis, Quezon City
Tel: 702-0200 | Fax: 814-8888

jobs.ph@siemens.com
www.siemens.com
0917-SIEMENS

Walk-in applicants are welcome.

Makati Recruitment Office
16/F Salcedo Tower
189 H.V. Dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel: 878-9495 | Fax: 878-9400

SIEMENS

Global network of innovation

D1 Oils Asia Pacific, Inc. in preparation for expansion in the Philippines is looking for Regional Business Coordinators

Candidates will be selected from the 12 regions of the Philippines.

Qualifications:

- Dynamic, self motivated, goal oriented.
- Must be involved in the business sector of the regions
- Familiar in dealing with NGO's and corporations

Please provide a brief summary of experience to:

Richard Torres

E-mail address: richardtorres@d1sea.com



D1 Oils Asia Pacific, Inc.

Unit 1801, One San Miguel Avenue Condominium
No. 1 San Miguel Ave. cor Shaw Blvd.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 02-6876357
Telefax No. 02-6876360



SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB "Come for Golf, stay for the Good life"

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- 30-40 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Marketing or any other Business Related Course with Master's degree
- 3-5 Years Experience in same field
- Knowledge in Golf Operations is a plus factor
- Professional driver's license holder

FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

- Male & Female
- 28-35 years old
- Graduate of Hotel & Restaurant Management with Master's Degree
- 3-5 years experience in Hotel & Restaurant
- Driving skills is a plus factor

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- 28-35 years old
- Female/male
- Graduate of Business Administration, Marketing or Management
- With Master's degree
- 3-5 years experience as Marketing Supervisor
- With driving skills

GOLF COURSE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

- Male or Female
- At least 25 to 40 years old
- Associates degree in Golf Course Turf Management or related field, plus three (3) years of experience in golf course ground maintenance, or one (1) year of additional golf course experience may substitute for one (1) year College, up to a maximum of two (2) years substitution.
- Advanced knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf
- Driver's license holder
- Will be required to obtain and maintain a valid pesticide applicator's license.

Interested parties may apply personally every Tuesday & Thursday 10am to 4pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo, copy of TOR to:

SUBIC BAY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Human Resources Department

Bldg. 6900 Blnkican Drive, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
or email: jackhu@subicbay.net • jpsmala@yahoo.com
Submit your applications not later than March 20, 2006

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BRANDED CHILDREN PRODUCTS
INVITES ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

ARTIST / ILLUSTRATOR

• Graduate in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Advertising, or any design related courses; • Ability to create and illustrate cartoon images and children's characters; • Must have skills in all type of creative media, i.e. pencil, ink, water color, etc.; • Must be creative, artistic, & hardworking; • Knowledge of Illustrator, Photoshop, Freehand, CorelDraw, etc. will be an advantage.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

• Graduate in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Advertising, or any design related courses. • Must have knowledge & experience working with Photoshop, Illustrator or Freehand, and other multi-media software; • Must be creative, artistic, & motivated; • Knowledge in operations of prepress equipments, i.e. scanners, imagesetters, etc. will be a great advantage.

All applicants must be between 20 to 35 years old and preferably a born-again Christian. We especially welcome candidates who reside in Quezon City, Caloocan, Bulacan areas or northern parts of Metro Manila. Please send your resume with cover letter clearly indicating only one or the other of the above positions you are applying for, a recent ID photo, samples of your work, xeroxed copy of Transcript of Records, and your LANDLINE phone number to:

Or email the above requirements to:
jclcp1_hrd@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 408
Greenhills,
San Juan 1502
Metro Manila

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fit all**

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TeamAsia, a corporate communications consulting firm, is in need of highly competent, energetic key players. If you are creative, resourceful, and self-motivated, we have a job tailored for you.

Join our dynamic team and take part in providing high value, world-class, innovative services such as creative design, media relations, event conceptualization and management, database and direct marketing, and strategic marketing and promotion.

Contact us for a custom fitting today.

Log on to www.teamasia.com/recruitment/index.html or email your resume to careers@teamasia.com

Hamilton-Herralde Corporation, Unit 308, Building 8, The Plaza, Northgate Cyberzone
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang 1781 Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Editorial Director

MIS Director

Program Manager

Program Assistant

Contact Center Agents

Contact Center Supervisor

Database Administrator

A leading Real Estate Company
is in need of

CALL CENTER AGENTS

- Good English Communication Skills
- Willing to work night shift
- Prior call center experience an advantage
- Knowledge in the field of real estate

Email application letter and attach resume (MS Word document) to
apply@centuryasia.com.ph

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HIGH SCHOOL &
GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS
for S.Y. 2006-2007

Apply w/ TR and Resume at:
FRANCISCO SCHOOL
045 Quirino Highway, Baysa, Q.C.
Tel. No. 362-85-73 / 455-49-88

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
REQUIRES****Community-based Coordinator**
(Reaching Every Barangay: Pasig, Parañaque and Taguig)

- Duties:**
1. Assist in the establishment of effective communication system between participating community and public health system;
 2. Provide key support to facilitate community development and organization;
 3. Guide the public health system in the establishment of effective and meaningful linkages with the participating community;
 4. Facilitate and support health center staff in moving forward the process. Provide monitoring and supervision to the different participating communities. Meet at least once a week with key community stakeholders.
 5. Conduct a systematic review of the ongoing work based on agreements with stakeholders.
 6. Identify with communities and health staff members ways on how to improve the ongoing process.
 7. Facilitate agreements between community and health center staff on how to move forward the process.
 8. Guide and support community in the data collection, processing and analysis.
 9. Provide technical support to the project management unit and participate in its regular meetings.
 10. Collaborate with partner agencies in the establishment of mechanisms to coordinate the network that is working in the implementation of the project.
 11. Disseminate information to project stakeholders.

Qualifications and skills/knowledge required:
Extensive experience in community-based work (facilitation and management)
Experience working with government and local government agencies
Willing to travel to depressed areas
Excellent knowledge of both written and spoken Tagalog and English.

Education:
College graduate in any course but preferably in one of these areas: Social Science, Psychology, Public Health

Only well-qualified candidates should apply with a detailed curriculum vitae and recent passport size photograph to:

WHO REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 2932

no later than one week following this advertisement. Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

SMOKING IS BANNED IN THE ORGANIZATION'S PREMISES

GLOBAL BRANDS**JR. CADET ENGINEER**

Graduate of any engineering course, preferably of Industrial Engineering, with experience in warehousing and inventory management with driving skills

Work Base: Tanay, Rizal

BUSINESS BUILDING OFFICERS - EL KAPITAN

(Detailing and marketing of marine and all-purpose epoxy in end-users)

College level with background in epoxies, boat-making, or carpentry; adept with product presentations and demonstrations, equipped with good sales aptitude; can effectively communicate in English & Filipino & the local dialect, familiar with area assignment

Work Area: North Luzon / Base - Pampanga or Pangasinan

Letter of application, comprehensive resume and 2x2 colored photo may be hand delivered or send via e-mail: GLOBAL BRANDS CO., INC. Penthouse, 35th Floor, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center, Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City 1800 Philippines. e-mail address: recruitment@globalbrands.com.ph Tel No. 990-5656 loc 807

WANTED PROGRAMMER

1. MALE, Graduate of BS Computer Science, Computer Engineering or IT related courses.
2. With 1 to 2 years relevant working experience.
3. Knowledgeable in WAN/LAN networking and web-based programming.
4. Must be able to start at short notice.
5. Willing to learn and can read/understand program flow based from existing Program code.
6. Must have hands-on experience in handling systems (Accounting, Payroll, and Invoicing)
7. Knowledge in Progress is an added advantage but not required.

Please come with your comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 ID picture to: AIT TECHNOLOGY, INC. Unit 2102C East Tower, PSE Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City. Tel. nos.: 637-3531 and 637-3526.

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For part time position, must be available from 2pm onwards

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

SECRETARY

WRITER/EDITOR

LAYOUT/GRAPHIC ARTIST

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

ACCOUNTANT/ACCOUNTING STAFF

TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF

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manufacturer of the famous brands
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the market leader in the construction
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Qualifications:

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- Has experience in database system analysis, development and implementation
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If you think you have these specifications then you could be the subject we are looking for

Application deadline: March 15, 2006

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Apply now and we'll take you to our leaders.
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work in your chosen profession, be an immigrant

and live the "American Dream"

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CORRECTION: In the March 5 issue of Job Market, an announcement ad for JOBS Employment Expo containing the company profiles of participating companies misstated the corporate name of Shoemart, Inc. and interchanged the profiles of Shoemart, Inc. and SM Supermalls. The following should have been published:

SHOEMART, INC.

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The SM Department store chain is part of SM, a dynamic group of companies founded by Henry Sy, Sr. as a shoe store in 1958.

SM SUPERMALLS

The SM Supermalls have spearheaded what is known as the mall lifestyle in the Philippines, wherein malls have become gathering places where family members and friends can shop, eat, and have fun together. More than being shopping, leisure, and entertainment destinations, SM's supermalls have been catalysts for business and employment in the communities they serve.

There are currently twenty three malls owned and operated by SM Prime Holdings, the country's largest owner and developer of shopping centers. Totalling more than 2.5 million square meters in great shopping and leisure spaces, these are visited by more than 1.5 million customers everyday. Five more scheduled to open this year, including the Mall of Asia, which is envisioned to be the premiere destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region.

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**POWERSPEAK'S PERSONAL AWARENESS
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Shown are the graduates and staff of Batch 8 of PowerSpeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) held last Jan. 20-22, 2006. The graduates attest that the three-day seminar was highly experiential and insightful, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking these allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Also in photo is Joey P. Reyes, in the middle (wearing a suit), facilitator and president of PowerSpeak, Inc. PALs is held monthly and Batch 10 in Manila is slated on March 17 to 19 and the first batch in Cebu on April 7 to 9. Interested parties may inquire at 8405958, 8405960 or 0917-5555639 or email them at powerspeak@gmail.com.

**International Accounting
Standards workshop set**

IS YOUR COMPANY OR BUSINESS updated? The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Board of Accountancy (BOA), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) have approved the adoption of new and revised accounting standards. The new Standards are effective for annual financial reporting periods beginning Jan. 1, 2005 and for interim or quarterly reports beginning Jan. 1, 2006. Prepare your company and your business. Don't miss this very important seminar slated on March 23 and 24, 1-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas. The workshop will have as its resource lecturer Ms. Cecile Catihon, Consultant, Trainer and Certified Public Accountant. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tekit Tower East Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

How to survive your work stressors

From page 10***

crew all work with clocks ticking like time bombs.

Pilots, molecular biologists, surgeons, telephone linemen, snipers, computer technicians, miners and scuba diving instructors work with great precision and cannot afford even the slightest error. Many jobs have grave life and death consequences, and this fact makes them stressful by nature. CEOs, managers and supervisors are on this list, too.

People as stressors

Let's face it, there are stressful people all around us! Every workplace will usually have the obnoxious, the envious, the braggart, the self-righteous, the lazy, the complainer, the gossip. The list is endless. The boss, of course, is often unfairly seen as the automatic stress icon.

Personality-driven stressors

Some people just seem to be more stressed out than others. Perhaps it is because some people actually enjoy being stressed, whether or not they admit it. Called stress junkies, these workers feel incomplete when the going is smooth. They miss the jagged edges, bumps and near-hits. There are also some, with masochistic tendencies perhaps, who have to play the perpetually harassed, demanding ploy or praise for their hard work.

Nuisance stressors

Some stressors are simply unnecessary. Worrying about traffic when one left the house later than usual,

losing sleep over a month-old assignment that is due tomorrow, or getting irritated about an officemate's bad moods create stress that one can live without. One can prepare for predictable traffic and deadlines. Another person's moods are beyond our control so why be perpetually surprised?

Overcoming stress is a decision, a choice one makes for the sake of a peaceful existence at work. A stressor is a stressor because one allows it to be so. Simply put, one can control all kinds of stresses because he or she can choose not to be stressed by them.

Attitude is the all important factor. Those who triumph over stress are those who have decided that they will not let external factors wield their unwelcome power over them. Overcoming stress is a rational process, a willful act. One must think through stress rather than feel through it.

What to do

Three simple steps: identify, rationalize and decide. List down all the things that stress you, big and small. Then analyze each item. Why is this item a stressor? Is it within your control? What can you do about it?

It also helps to identify the consequences that each stressor brings to you. If the jeepney driver who cuts you in traffic goes away whistling a tune while you are still cursing right through lunch, shouldn't you be kinder to yourself? If your secretary still does not take a telephone message correctly, shouldn't you prefer one more round of training

to an emotional outburst?

Rationalizing helps you see what you can or cannot do about a particular stressor. If it is outside your control, then the only thing you can control is how you view it. Chances are, you can eliminate it from your list. It's entirely up to you.

Be kind to yourself

That attitude is a key determinant of stress control may seem impractical or downright absurd. It is difficult—extremely—some times. But if you decide not to be stressed about something, then it isn't a stressor anymore!

Wouldn't you rather be humming through your inbox and chatting with your boss as you would your best friend? Wouldn't you rather go home and enjoy your children's school sto-



ILLUSTRATION BY EXONISO BUCCAT

Telco engineers turn relief workers at ...

From page 10***

and their three children had died. The family had relocated to Guinsaugon to help Mina's parents only a week earlier.

When members of media started arriving at the scene, more calling facilities had to be set up. In addition, the journalists needed Internet access to file reports and send photos to their offices. The nearest town with Internet access was Sogod, about an hour away by car.

As part of the PLDT group, Smart has access to several wireless solutions. The fastest to deploy was PLDT WeRoam, which needed only a card phone to be plugged into a notebook PC to gain mobile Internet connectivity.

By Saturday afternoon, the Librang Tawag Center looked like a press center, with local and foreign journalists taking turns filing reports, using three laptops with Internet access.

Round-the-clock service

To further speed up connectivity, engineers worked round-the-clock to install a wireless broadband base station in St. Bernard. By Sunday afternoon, the call station at the town had Internet access using Smart WiFi, with broadband connection speeds that made it easier for media men to download photos and e-mail reports.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring town of Liloan, Smart's employee volunteers also responded to a request to put up a free-calls facility. This serves the families evacuated to the Liloan Central School in anticipation of more landslides, triggered by continuous rains.

Another one was set up at the Cristo Rey National High School in St. Bernard. More free-call stations will be opened in other evacuation

centers in St. Bernard and neighboring towns, to be manned by Red Cross volunteers.

For the three Smart engineers, what was supposed to be a day of technical troubleshooting turned into "a weeklong relief operation. It was time for Side B," quipped Echavria, referring to the shirts on their backs which they later on wore inside out in lieu of a change of clothes.

Ironically the men who helped townsfolk contact their families were themselves able to do the same only several days later. "My children had been sending text messages, urging me to come home," said Parrilla of his three daughters in Ormoc. It was one of those rare occasions when they contacted him for some reason other than to ask for their allowance, he laughed.

The first chance he got, Echavria—whose family is in Bohol—called his wife to assure her that he was okay and that he couldn't call earlier because he and the other engineers made their cell phones available to the public.

Quirong, who has been with Smart the longest, almost 13 years, said more than ever before, he felt proud to be an employee of the wireless company. "It was exhausting but rewarding. Even in our line of work, we are able to help people," he said.

"And we did not make a distinction between our subscribers and those of other networks," Parrilla added. "We allowed long distance and overseas calls, we put up Internet facilities simply because these were needed."

Their experience earned for them the moniker "3G," for three guapo (handsome), or three gurang (old). Perhaps the best word would be gallant.

Supervisory Leadership Development

March 21, 2006, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Galleria

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

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Session IV: Planning and Goal Setting
Session V: Leading Your People
Session VI: How to Motivate for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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- Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
- Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role of leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
- Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

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PMAP seminars set for the month of March

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Recruitment and Placement of Workers scheduled on March 17, 2006.

The program aims to orient participants with the requirements of the Labor Code in the conduct of Recruitment and Placement. At the end of the session, it is expected that the participants would be better equipped to perform recruitment and placement as a business function. Registration fee is P3,400 for PMAP Members and P4,900 for Non PMAP Members.

A two-day workshop on An Overview of Labor and Employment Laws will be

held on March 20-21, 2006. Registration fee is P4,800 for PMAP Members and P6,300 for Non PMAP Members.

This seminar presents the basic laws and rules governing employment and contracting in the Philippine setting as well as the minimum labor standards required of employers, the legal consequences of union organization, the requirements for a valid dismissal, and the labor law enforcement machinery of the Government.

The program entitled Principles and Techniques in Instructional Design is scheduled on March 21-22, 2006. Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP Center

It aims the participants to be able to identify the most appropriate approach(es) and methods to achieve their training objectives. They will also be able to design a training program, utilizing effective learning tools and activities.

All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact

The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org

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PEOPLE at WORK

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Betrayed by protégé!

I READ with great interest your career advice to the high potential person (HPP) who complained that his assigned mentor refuses to see him. I commiserate with him if the mentor that the HR Director had assigned to him was not at all the good mentor described in your career advice. (Author's note: Please see Sunday Inquirer, People at Work, Job Market section, Feb. 19 and 26, 2006.)

I had been mentored myself during the early part of my career when I was also a high potential person. Were it not for my mentors, I would not have risen to the highest position in our company. I had always looked back with gratitude to and love for these mentors, and up to now, I pray for them since they are now dead.

Because of these mentors, I welcomed opportunities to mentor high potential people during my corporate career. I must have mentored about a dozen young men and women, both formally and informally. Except for three of them, the rest had shown their gratitude and given me credit for having contributed to their career growth. I'm glad that your article described the psychic and spiritual benefits of mentoring for these were true of my own experience as a mentor.

One of the three had the attitude and air of "I did it myself with no thanks to you." He eventually replaced me when I was eased out of my position due to corporate politics. I was given an attractive separation package, a "golden parachute," to leave the company which I had nurtured for 18 years and made profitable. It broke my heart; I was crushed and devastated. How painful it is to be kicked out of the company you have come to love as your own family, and be made to feel no

ASK YOUR
CAREER
COUNSELORJosie O.
Santamaria

longer needed. This was seven years ago. Up to now, in spite of my close relationship with God, the source of my strength and center of my life, I am still broken in spirit; my wounds have not yet healed when I think of the betrayal of this HPP.

I'm now 63 years old, no longer on LOI ("living on interest") status. In fact, my wife and I are now living on our limited savings and I don't know how we can survive.

We have four children who have families of their own and struggling to send their own children to school. They always complain of their inability to make both ends meet. I had given each one a part of my separation package; they think I still have a big amount invested.

Do you think I can go back to some of the people whom I had mentored and ask if they can give me consulting work? I'm hesitant to do this because it may not be the right thing to do. Also, I'm too proud and afraid that I'll be rejected.

Mr. Dejected Retiree

I can imagine and feel how devastated you were when you were pressured to retire and saw the person you had mentored take over your position. Worse, this person did not at all acknowledge whatever contribution you made to his professional growth, let alone to his career advancement.

It is natural for you to feel the way you do; however, if you allow these feelings to dominate your life, you will



ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

not be able to move forward. The good that came out of your forced retirement was that it had given you a big amount of money and you were able to share some amount with your adult children. As important, it had brought you to God and led you to develop a close personal relationship with Him.

Acknowledge feelings

Do not suppress and deny your negative feelings. Rather, acknowledge them. Your feelings of anger, bitterness, betrayal, etc. are all natural and normal. Offer them to God and pray for His healing and the grace of wholeness which come from forgiving those who you consider to be behind your exit. Self-pity makes you rooted to the past. Instead, feel good about yourself, be grateful for the many blessings God has given you and get on with your life.

If God has closed the door to corporate life, surely He is opening wide windows of opportunities for you if you

only stop looking down and looking back. Instead, look up and recognize the opportunities He may be sending you.

Take advantage of the present to make an inventory of who you are now and what you have become, what skills, talents and wisdom you have acquired, what you now possess because of your work and career success, what career options are open for you, and who you know who can be members of your network. If you take time to write down the above, you will feel good and realize you are so blessed. This will contribute to your acceptance and eventual healing, and give you the confidence you need to look to the future with hope.

(To be continued)

(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., a professional psychologist and counselor, and a mentor and executive coach. She has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of the Philippines. Visit www.careersystems.com.ph for more information.)

Being special

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

FOR SOMEONE WHO IS BURDENED WITH WORK AND ALL THE difficulties that go along with it, the feeling of being someone special to the boss, or to other significant coworkers could lighten the load, and perhaps even provide an inspiration to work harder.

The need to be recognized is one of the basic needs of everyone, so, most workers compete consciously or unconsciously for recognition and appreciation. In order to get special regard from the superior, some would sacrifice their personal time, perhaps even readily work overtime without pay on some pet projects of the boss which are not strictly related to their assigned tasks. There are also others who strive to get the favorable attention of the majority of their coworkers. Being affirmed by others generates a corresponding and higher self-esteem in some persons, rendering them more forcefully driven to work and strongly motivated to perform better.

This culture and environment where the person and dignity of the worker are recognized and valued by everyone is the most preferred setting of a workplace. But the reality in most workplaces is different; there is too stiff a competition where everyone seems too ready to destroy and "kill" the other, or at the very least pull down or discredit those who are at the top or those progressing in good deeds.

Yet, these harsh realities could change if everyone would see the beauty of mutual affirmation and focus more on the goodness rather than the undesirable traits of each individual and believe that each one, in his or her own way, is indeed special in the eyes of God. (E-mail the author at mfvg@skynet.net)

REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Mark 2:10

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.

Feeling left out

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

A READER ONCE WROTE ME TO VENTILATE ON THE STATE OF workplace. He was feeling paranoid for being left out of interesting projects. Today's Gospel (where Jesus picks two disciples to go up the mountain with Him) reminds me of that reader.

At one time or the other in your working life, you must have felt left out. For example, when the boss launches an extraordinary project and creates a team for it. In spite of your talents or skills you're not in. Your first reaction to this would probably be resentment, then self-pity and envy. "Why has he not included me? Doesn't anybody want me? They gave a big budget for that pet project while our department can't even buy a new fax machine!"

It is very human to be reacting this way, but we must not allow ourselves to stew in that rut too long, otherwise we lose. Winners never forget that lights and shadows always go together—every trying situation hides a victory somewhere, and every triumphant situation has its downside as well. Being left out might look like a low point for you but you must remember that it's your attitude that makes or breaks you, and your attitude is within your control. When you find yourself in that groove, don't waste your time whining, use it to reinvent yourself. Don't cry "Foul!" as it will only make your boss thankful he's left you out, instead, upgrade and polish your skills on your own—first, it will improve your self-esteem, and second, it will increase your "saleability" as a worker. (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

Telco engineers turn relief workers at Guinsaugon landslide

By Aimee L. Abaricia
Contributor

ENSURING THE SMOOTH traffic of phone calls is all in a day's work for Jun Parrilla, an engineer in a mobile phone company. But never did he realize the impact one phone call could make until Feb. 17, when a landslide buried an entire barangay in Southern Leyte.

He and two other engineers at Smart Communications, Inc. had set up and manned a free-calls station at the disaster site—and witnessed anguish, terror, desperation up close.

Calmer after calmer, the message was the same—about a loved one dead or missing. Some calls were made by survivors, who assured their families that they were safe, others sought help.

"It was very hard, especially on the first day because most of the calls were made by the survivors, who

were sleeping at the St. Bernard municipal hall where we had set up the Librang Tawag station. The emotions were very raw, and they would immediately start crying when they contacted the other party," Parrilla said.

Shocking news

The morning of that tragic day, he, Lolong Echavia and Lito Quirang, his fellow-engineers in Smart's Network Services Division, had set out from their base in Maasin, Southern Leyte, to do some troubleshooting at a cell site in Hinunangan town. Since it had been raining heavily the past few days, Parrilla wanted to make sure that landslides along the Maharlika highway near Mahaplag town had not rendered the road impassable.

A call to Roderick Gaidoy, the caretaker at the cell site in St. Bernard, revealed the shocking news instead. Barangay Guinsaugon had been wiped out



SMART engineers at Librang Tawag station, which became a virtual press center.

and an initial count had already placed the missing at over 1,500.

The three engineers thus were among the first on the scene.

That same evening, the engineers activated the Smart Librang Tawag station at the St. Bernard Municipal Hall. They made their own cell phones available to more than a hundred

people, mostly victims' kin. "I was deeply moved," Quirang recounted. "But I had to hold back the tears."

A TV cameraman was around, and I didn't want my relatives to see me crying." He kept thinking about his own family and what he would do if something like this happened to them.

Echavia said it was painful to watch the survivors, espe-

cially when they started crying. Like his colleagues, he often found himself holding back tears.

"One woman couldn't stop sobbing into the phone. I learned later, she had lost all her family and knew no one in the area. They had just moved to St. Bernard from Manila," he said.

The Smart station was also crowded with rescuers and

volunteers as well as members of local government units and support groups that needed to relay information to provincial and national headquarters.

Call service

Using a satellite phone, recharged through a car battery, the engineers accommodated calls from rescuers from the Army, PNP Region 8, and volunteers from support groups. (The phone was literally mobile, as it was inside a vehicle.) Relatives of missing persons also flocked to the calling station, anxiously awaiting news.

The engineers also activated a 3G (third generation) radio base station in St. Bernard and Sogod. One survivor, Vicente Cabidayan, made a video call to his mother in Taytay, Rizal. At the sight of her face on the cell phone screen, he broke into sobs as he broke the painful news. His wife Mila

TELCO/P.9***

How to survive your work stressors

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

ANYONE WHO COMPLAINS about stress in the workplace must one day accept the futility of such a preoccupation. Stress at work is as real as any other item in one's job description. When one signs a work contract, one also gives his/her consent to the fine print of S-T-R-E-S-S imbedded as a hyperlink in every other line. Stress is simply part of

the working life—indeed, of life itself.

Stress is natural

Does this mean, then, that we should all stop complaining and grudgingly accept the seemingly unacceptable? I definitely say "No!" There are countless individuals who seem to breeze through the stresses of everyday and consider it such a privilege to be at work! Let me share what some happy people at work have discovered.

Stress is often defined as "the body's way of responding to change." This simply means that stress was created to be a good thing. If the body were not allowed to use this built-in response mechanism, there would surely be adverse consequences.

Stress becomes a "bad" thing when we allow it to turn against itself. Stress becomes "stressful" when we allow it to put undue pressure on us, forcing us to

cope with too much, too often, or too soon. The body is forced to overtax itself in responding to change, over and beyond its natural capacity. We then begin to bite more than we can chew. We begin to feel buried deeper and deeper into a hole we cannot get out of. We gasp for air. We choke. We have allowed stress to overpower us.

Organization as stressor
Here are some causes of stress:

A clear work stressor is the type of organization people work in. The nature of the business often dictates the culture, norms, pace and relationships in the workplace. Organizations that deal with disaster relief, emergencies, money, media, health and the like have stresses inherent in the kind of work that they do. A person who decides to work in these organizations must accept the stresses as givens.

Nature of work

Another stressor is defined by the kind of work people do in an organization. Sales jobs are forever about targets and quotas. The medical profession is about saving lives, often demanding split-second decisions. Stock market traders, air traffic controllers, firemen, call center agents, assembly line workers, reporters, even fast food delivery

HOW/P.9***

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

MARCH 12, 2006

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES



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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA



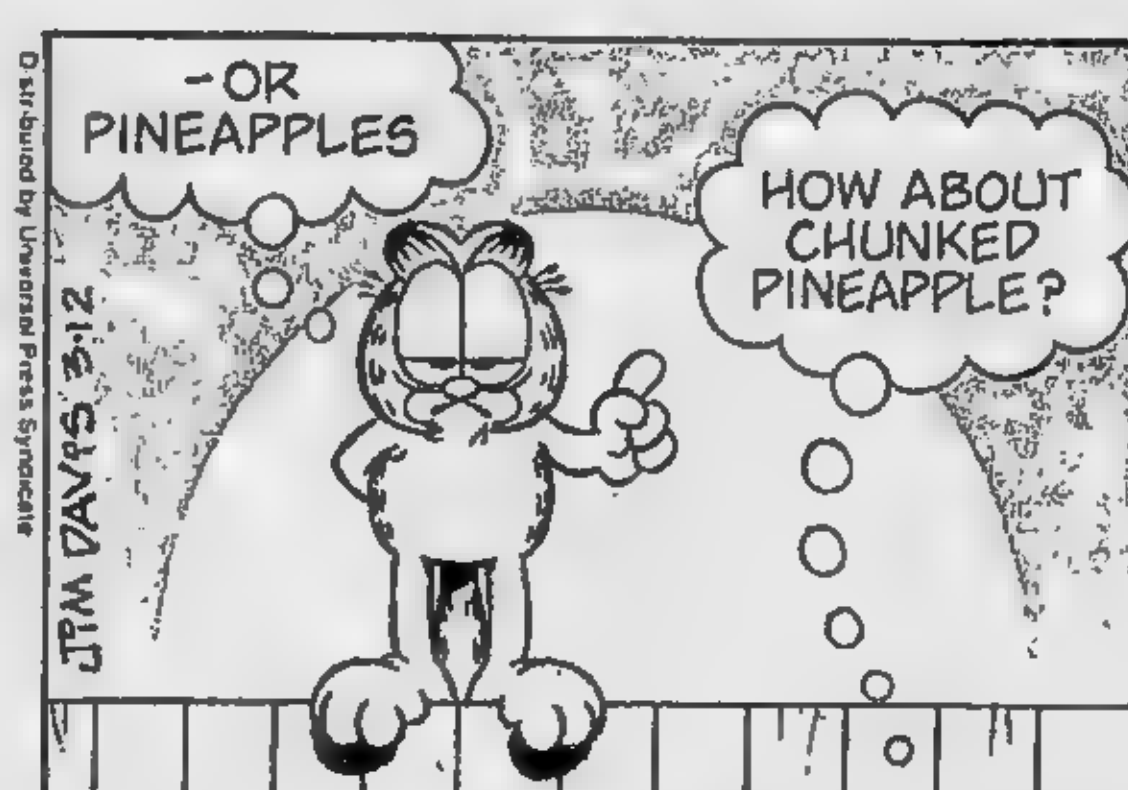
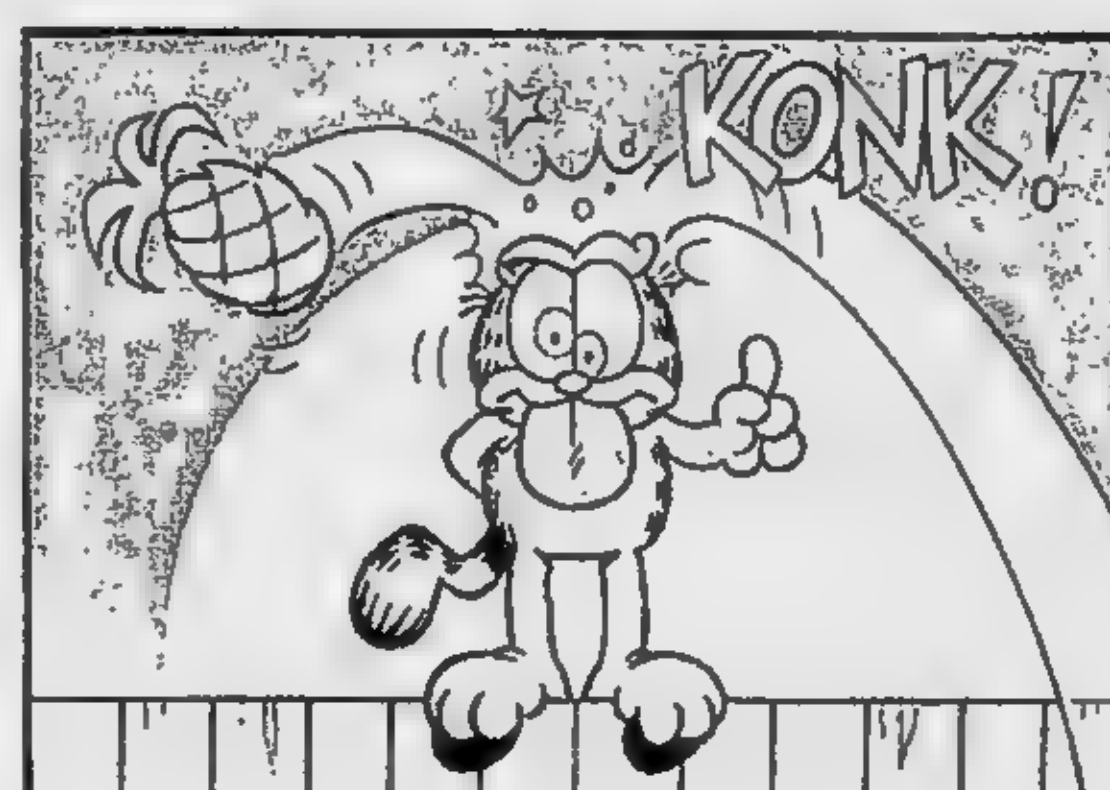
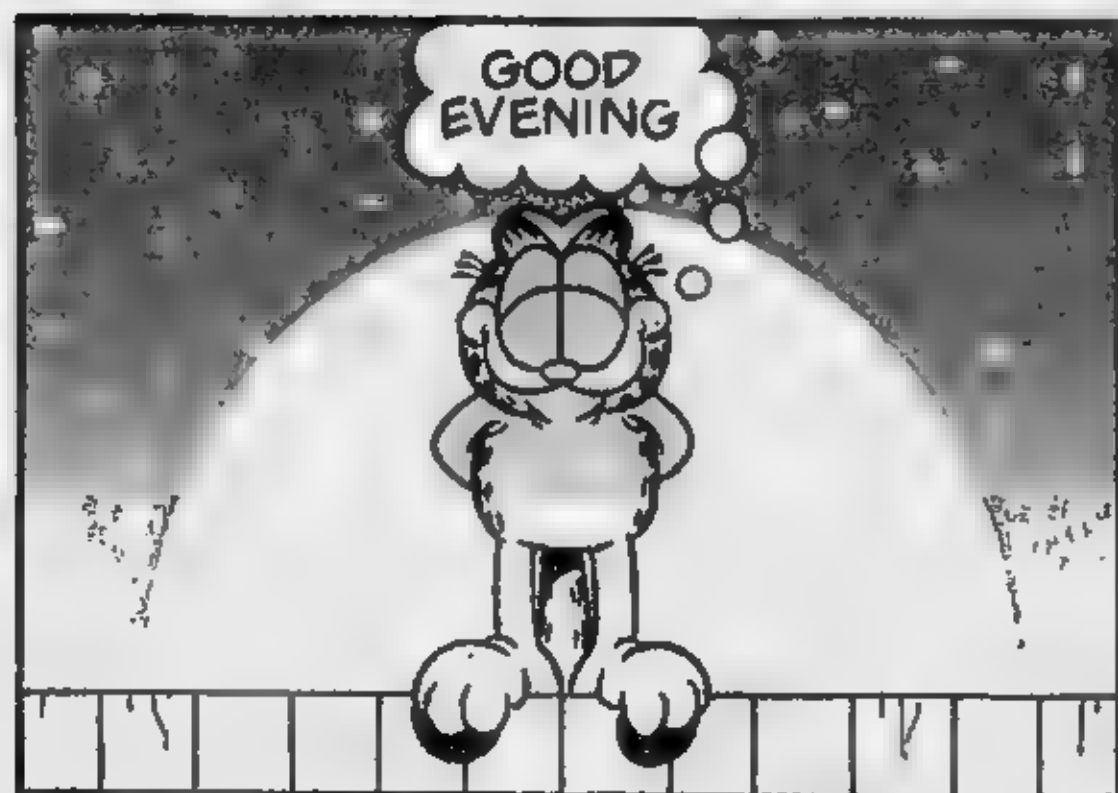
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



March 12, 2006

sunday INQUIRER *magazine*

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The fall and 'redemption' of Mark Jimenez

Back from a two-year prison term in the United States, the controversial ex-congressman and Erap's "corporate genius" recounts his humbling days as Prisoner No. 69335-004, and how his families fell apart

by Cynthia Balana
photographs by Raffy Lerma

he man who would be a power broker during President Joseph Estrada's term is now a repentant shadow of his former self. Declares Mark Jimenez: "Yes, I got lost but now I'm back. I was slandered, brutalized and crucified by a lot of people not knowing that I would be coming back," he says. "But I bear no anger, no vengeance. I only have forgiveness for myself and the forgiveness of God in my heart."

Jailed in the United States for two years for tax evasion and illegal campaign contribution, the 59-year-old former representative of Manila's sixth district had quietly slipped into the country in December. He says he has since recovered from the rigors of prison life at the Allen Wood Security Correctional Institute in Pennsylvania but is still struggling to be at peace with himself.

Jimenez says the road to prison dealt a devastating blow to his families. A father to 12 children by three women, he fondly remembers his partners as 7-3-2, to represent the number of offspring he had with each. His youngest child, Mark Jr., is only two, and was born when he was about to serve his sentence.

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The loves of Annie Brazil, p.3

Big Brother's shrink, p.4

Victor Wood's faded glory, p.8



Learning from memories good and bad

Thank you for making me believe that you loved me, even if you didn't. I wouldn't have known how strong I was if not for you

Dear Joe,

I met him through my barkada in college. We exchanged text messages until our cellphone batteries got drained. We were so much in love, Joe.

But something happened in our relationship that made us feel bitter toward each other. I found out he was flirting with another girl. I read his messages on his Friendster and on his mobile phone, and even the messages he sent her. He had been seeing the other girl behind my back, Joe. I saw his Christmas gift for her and it hurt me, because he never bothered to give me anything, when in fact, I was his legitimate girl at that time.

We broke up for a month. But I still loved him and found a way for us to get back again. Still, I just couldn't forget that he cheated on me, so we'd break up, get together then break up again. There was even one time when we stayed together only for one week.

During those times, I thought I had already moved on, and that I was okay, but I was wrong.

I thought he was serious because he even dumped his girlfriend at that time to be with me. Then one night, he stopped texting me and wouldn't answer my calls. I was sick at that time.

The next morning, I received a message from him, telling me that there was something wrong with his cell phone, that he was sorry for not being able to answer my messages and calls. Suddenly, that was it—the end of our relationship. He never called me again or even texted me.

After what happened, I vowed to myself that I would move on and start my life anew. With that, I changed my mobile phone number. Slowly, I became happy again. But one day I came across him inside a mall. I was stunned when he looked away and kissed the girl he was with—right in front of me.

Joe, I was so depressed and devastated that I cried every night. And then I found out that the girl he kissed lived only a couple of houses away from me!

I'm still moving on, Joe. And as I move on, I'll be leaving the past behind. I will be leaving the pain he's caused me, so that when we meet again, I'll be better. I could then thank him for making me strong.

So to the one who broke my heart, thank you for all the things you put me through. Thank you for all the memories, good or bad. Lastly, thank you for making me believe that you loved me, even if you didn't. I wouldn't know how strong I was if not for you.

Sincerely yours,
Fatima

Dear Fatima,

There are men who have a way with words and know just the right strategy to keep women wanting them. Many abuse this ability to take advantage of women's vulnerability and make them fall into a painful trap of lies, deceit and exploitation. You were made to believe that you were wanted and loved but the fact was, you weren't. You were wanted because he needed you physically. You were made to believe that you were loved because that was the only way he could keep you and suit his needs.

Fatima, it is not wrong to love, it is not wrong to give ourselves to the person we love. But, we have to remember that in love, only two wholes make a whole. We cannot empty ourselves too much into a person because when he goes, we would be totally helpless and weak. We should be able to love and still be complete. We should be able to give but still have something left to keep us alive. You have loved him with all your heart and sacrificed everything because you believed that he loved you in return. But he was just playing with your feelings all this time. You were there just because he needed you and not because he loved you. He has hurt you and wants to hurt you still.

I admire the way you look at your situation. Pain should not make us lose hope, but rather motivate us to strive to become someone better. When someone hurts us, we should use that energy to search for the strength that we have in our hearts. We should be thankful that we've learned to become stronger because of that person. And when someone stops loving us, we should be thankful because then we'd learn to accept it and live our lives again in search of true and lasting happiness.

This letter won second prize in the Romance at The Malls (LoveNotes) contest. To subscribe to Joe 'D' Mango's love tips and advice, just text ON DEARJOE to 2968.

by Divina C. Paredes

In search of the kitchen god

In a family known for great cooking, the author had always been an anomaly. It took three decades, migration to a foreign land and countless kitchen disasters for her to finally slay the hungry demons nipping at her heels

I was a secret I had harbored for long, and the source of a family joke: I was a klutz in the kitchen.

The repertoire of dishes I could whip out sans a recipe on hand was just a handful. These were the usual suspects, mainly one-dish meals like sinigang, adobo, tinola, spaghetti, fried rice. Nothing fancy, all very basic.

Now, that confession may not be shattering, but in my family, being a less than gifted cook is an anomaly. If there is a gene for great cooking, it must run in my mother's veins. My mom, Li-wayway, was a social worker and a superb cook. Half-Pampango (via Angeles City) and half-Tagalog (via Pasig), she married my father Amante, a genuine Ilocano (via Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur and Batac), and learned how to cook pinakbet and bulanglang the way my father liked it.

My eldest sister Dulce has a post-doctorate degree in food technology from Cornell University. She is co-editor of the book "Chemistry of Taste," and her kitchen in Ossining, New York is always busy. My youngest sister Jane went to the Culinary Institute of America, worked as a chef, and teaches at Henry Sison's cooking school.

The middle daughter, that's me, was a stranger in the kitchen. Once, while watching my sister Jane prepare a seafood dish and a casserole simultaneously and effortlessly, I wished cooking would come as easily to me as writing.

Even when I got married and moved to my own home, the situation did not change. My mom and my sister Jane were always there to cook for me. An elderly aunt moved in with me to help take care of my son Dino Japa, and do the cooking. It did not help that my son's preference was for anything crisp and fried, without sauce, not even catsup. He is autistic, which accounts for his quirky food choices. There was no incentive for me to get acquainted with the kitchen, more so when my husband died less than five years into our marriage.

With my son on a perpetual diet of french fries, crispy tocino and corned beef, I was basically cooking for myself. And if I wanted a nice, home-cooked meal, my mother's house was just a few minutes away.

Eight years later, when I got a scholarship to study at the University of Sydney, my mother saved me from messing up the kitchen of our small apartment. She took care of Dino and cooked the meals while I met my deadlines for academic papers and research reports.

When my son and I migrated to New Zealand in 2000, I knew my day of reckoning in the kitchen had arrived. My mom saved the day—again—by staying with me in the Land of the Long White Cloud for the first six months. She confessed one of the reasons she joined me was her fear that I would starve to death (really unlikely), subsist on instant noodles or keep the nearby Chinese takeaway shop very busy. She thus saved me yet again from getting up close and personal with my kitchen accoutrements.

Dutiful daughter that I was, I drove her to the supermarket and flea markets where she bought all the ingredients for our fine meals. For my son, she made spring rolls, chicharon (from scratch, buying the pork rind from the butcher), tempura and fried battered fish roe.

I was left to fend for myself when my mom decided to return to New York. One of my greatest regrets was that I was not able to show my mom my newfound interest in cooking. The



Illustration by STEPH BRAYO

next time I saw my mother after her Auckland sojourn, was two years later in New York, where she just had surgery for cancer of the colon. For the first time in our 40 years together, I prepared her food, but these were basically simple fare as her infirm system could not take anything stronger than porridge, oatmeal, soft-boiled eggs and mashed fruit and vegetables. Amazingly, one of our last conversations centered on the wonderful family gatherings we had where she prepared all our favorite dishes (her estafadong dila and kare kare are to my mind, non-pareil).

My early kitchen experiments were often successful, but sad to say, many of them were "one-hit wonders." For the life of me, I could not understand, for instance, how I could make the perfect pork asado following my mother's recipe, and then make a complete disaster of the dish on my second attempt.

But I was relentless in my goal to acquire some cooking skills. I had no choice. The reality of living in another country where common ingredients used in Filipino dishes are not available led me to become inventive. I initially used lemon to produce the sour broth for sinigang, until I discovered that sampaloc was sold bottled or frozen in the Asian shops. Before mustard (mustard leaves) became widely available, I learned to use broccoli, mushrooms, bok choy or pechay for my sinigang and its nearest Thai counterpart tom yum, and asparagus in place of papaya (called pawpaw here and quite expensive) for tinola. Salmon heads are among the cheapest seafood available, so I experimented with using them for sinigang. Their pink color and flesh perk up the broth.

I learned to revel in the fact that I live in a land that produces the best beef, lamb and pork. And most of the time, these produce do not need much embellishment—marinating them slightly, and just roasting, pan frying or throwing them on the barbecue pit are enough to produce a tasty main dish. The same goes for fish. I chop onions, chives and tomatoes, stuff these inside the fish, wrap the fish in foil and broil it.

My newfound interest in cook-

ing also led me to grow my own herbs like coriander (wansay), parsley and chillies (whose tender leaves are used in tinola). When I make pasta or casserole, I pick leaves from the laurel plant in my garden.

I've also learned to use the kitchen as a training ground for my son's basic numerical skills. He measures cups of flour, counts the eggs to be used in the cakes and cookies, and alerts me if the timer goes off. Later, he learned how to shape ensaymada and pan de sal, and mold polvoron.

A major lesson from all these mishaps and successes was the need to be forthright with myself and my kitchen capabilities. One thing I have accepted is that kitchen disasters do happen and when they do, nobody needs to know. Once I made sweet potato or kumara bread. After waiting for two hours, I decided the still unleavened rolls should go inside the oven so that the heat can work wonders on the timid yeast. The cooked buns resembled rock-hard putok (the sweet round hard bread that is a panaderia staple). They tasted great, but would score zero for texture. Out the window they went. The birds that hovered around our house—waiting for the leftover bread and balls of rice my son and neighbors used to throw out—were ecstatic. In less than five minutes, all evidence of my failed kitchen experiment was gone, decimated, zilch.

Recently, a friend gave me an easy to follow recipe for ensaymada. It turned out a bit tough, and curiously, tasted like money. I didn't ditch the recipe, I simply relabelled it money.

Indeed, I am no stranger now to kitchen splatter and spills. My main recipe books—"A Culinary Life" signed by Nora Daza when I attended the book launch in the 1990s, and the classic American tome "Joy of Cooking" given by my hopeful mom years ago—now have tell-tale signs of spilled batter, scribbles and post-it notes to mark favorite pages.

I no longer panic when friends call to say they would come over for lunch or dinner, or resort to takeaway food when I invite them to a meal that is not a "bring a

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Sipat sa Sinturon

Maybigpit daw ngayon
mulí ng sinturon
tayong wala kahit pambili ng kangkong.
Maididigay rin
ang kagaw at asin
habang naghahandang mangarap nang giuing.
Bakit di mang-umit
kung talagang gipit?
Palo ng sinturon ang sagot sa pasik
Na nag-uumiyak
dahil naghahanap
ng ibang paglala sa mababang hapag.

Bakit sasandakor
ang busog na busog
(sa yaman) at lakas ang naghihikahos?
May pagkakataong
pamalik sa tanong
ang pagsukong sakdal-lagin kung itaghyor:
Kaya di minsan lang
natin nasasikhang
may nagpakabigdi sa sinturong lyan.

Lamberto E. Antonilo

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Encounter

by C.H. Pardo
photographs by M. R. Pardo

Greenwich queen: Singing
at Stagonale's
Italian Bistro

TILL slim and youthful at 71, Annie Brazil has traveled the world singing jazz standards with the likes of Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan, Lionel Hampton and Louis Armstrong. Her classic style has been nurtured by the American presence in the Philippines from the turn of the century to the postwar years through the US bases in Clark and Olongapo.

SIM caught up with Annie in two sessions in New York City and New Jersey's suburbs. She has been singing in the world's capital of jazz, in one of the most famous neighborhoods on earth, Greenwich Village. She loves her Friday and Saturday night shows at Stagonale's Italian Bistro on Seventh Avenue and Bleecker Street, she says. It's just reward for all the dues she has paid.

Annie recently flew home to sing the blues at Merk's Bar and Bistro in Greenbelt 3. She will also be releasing a live CD from her performances.

Here are excerpts from SIM's encounter with the jazz icon

Sunday Inquirer Magazine (SIM): Tell us about your early years.

A: My mother was from Iloilo, while my father was a mestizo from Leyte who spoke Spanish and loved to sing. I got his genes. We're 10 siblings in all, seven girls and three boys. Brazil was my mom's maiden name. During the war years, some of my sisters and I had a group called the Bulawin Sisters. We pretty much lived in the hills of Palua, Rizal in those days.

SIM: When did you start performing in public?

A: After the war, when I was around 11, at this restaurant on Rizal Avenue owned by Dr. Zalamea. He had a piano, bass, trumpet and drum setup across from the Dalisay Theater. It was a tough gig, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. depending on my class schedule. Father was strict about school.

SIM: Where were you during martial law?

A: I worked at a recruiting agency during the day and sang at night. I was so tempted to make money under the table. Everyone did it. But I wanted to be able to walk down the street with my head up.

SIM: Where did you perform?

A: At the Pension on Vito Cruz, some hotels and even Hobbit House in Malate. That was fun. A friend of mine married one of the little people.

SIM: Can we talk about the loves of your life?

A: The loves of my life? I've had too many! Well, I had my first love when I was just 16. He was from Pampanga, a tiso, and he wanted to get married! I said, no, no, no...my father said, NO!

Then, I met Charlie Preysler. We were in love! But love was not meant for us. Charlie went on to become the father of Isabel Preysler, who was married to

No cover,
No minimum,
No reservations:

Annie Brazil
talks about
the loves
of her life

This Filipino jazz icon, who's now a regular attraction in Greenwich Village, New York, says that love is good for companionship, but sexy men are—well, nice!



The young chanteuse at 16



With daughter Rachel Ann Wolff

Spanish crooner, Julio Iglesias. They have a son, Enrique, who is bigger than his dad and going out with Russian tennis star, Maria Sharapova. We were in love, but that's love. We were not meant for each other.

SIM: Where did you meet Richard's (Merck) dad, James?

A: He was a radio disc jockey in the US Airforce in Okinawa. We fell in love and when my contract in Okinawa ended, I went home to Manila pregnant. We wrote each other. James wanted me to come to the States and be with him. My papers were all OK, but my father said, "If he loves you, then he should come and get you here!" It never happened.

SIM: You mean, you never saw James again?

A: No, he died when Richard was young. Richard found and contacted his family in 1999. In fact, I spoke with James's widow who thanked me. She said that if James had gone back to Manila for me when I was pregnant, she would never have married James nor had Richard's half sister Kathleen or half brother, Michael.

SIM: Where did love take you next?

A: I met Rachel Ann's dad, David Wolff. He owned a night club in Hong Kong called High Ball. I had a contract to sing there. We fell in love and married in December during the 1950s.

We had all those kids and grief. One day, he left for a music promotion in London. We'd talk on the phone everyday. He wanted me to meet him in London. That was 1969. Well, I never heard from him again for 15 years. When anyone asked, all I would say was, David went out for a pack of cigarettes and lost his way home. Rumors went around for years. Friends of ours had seen him in Singapore, talked with him and recounted his womanizing. I was better off without him.

Meanwhile, I sang around town, had a daytime job and raised kids. One night, a friend took me to the Hilton lounge and introduced me to a singer who was the present girlfriend of David. What a surprise for both of us.

Her hands were like ice. She was stunned. We actually had lunch another day and I showed her photos of my children with David. I asked her to tell him to give me a divorce so they could marry each other. I mean, after all those years!

SIM: Did you ever see David Wolff again?

A: Yes. Actually a couple times in Manila. We went to the SM Mall and bought clothes for Rachel Ann. I took so long, he got angry at me for making him wait. I said, (expletive) you! I waited 15 years to hear from you! He's a sad, lonely man. He still calls off and on.

SIM: Aside from Rachel Ann, did you and David Wolff have other children?

A: We had seven, but five have died. So, it's just Richard, Rachel Ann and Rommel, 33, who are still around.



Her live CD from her Manila performance

SIM: How did you go on?

A: Well, you do move on with a heavy heart. You sing from a different place. I went abroad to perform, came home and it was a different story. Life has to go on.

SIM: What lessons has love taught you?

A: It's nice to feel loved. My singing is my love, but love is also companionship. It's nice to fall in love, pero sexy men—it's nice! (guffaws)

SIM: How was your November vacation in Manila? Where did you perform?

A: It was standing room only during my show at Richard's place.

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FAST TRACK TO A 2-YEAR U.S. REGISTERED NURSING DEGREE

St. Ignace Health Science College has made it possible for Filipinos to obtain a U.S. registered nursing degree in two years. It has obtained official affiliation with a U.S. Nursing School to allow Filipino students to study 20 months here in the Philippines, and graduate as U.S. registered nurses after another semester in Fresno, California.

In the United States, it only takes 2 years to become a registered nurse. Two year graduates of the Associate of Science Degree in Nursing enjoy the same entry level salary and job description as 4 year Bachelor of Nursing degree holders. The only difference is that B.S. Nursing graduates ultimately can become nursing administrators, chief nurses and educators. Academically, only the subjects essential for the practice of nursing are incorporated in the two year program. Less important general education courses, humanities, and nursing leadership subjects are deferred until the registered nurse decides to obtain the B.S. degree in nursing for further academic advancement.

Because St. Ignace students are regarded as U.S. nursing graduates when they graduate from Fresno City College, they automatically qualify for the NCLEX in all 50 States. No other examinations are needed to get a job—no TOEFL, CGPNS, TSE, TWE or IELTS.

For those graduates who wish to go into administration, St. Ignace also arranged for them to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree from another well established accredited University. All units obtained previously from St. Ignace will be credited. They can pursue the Bachelor's degree while they are gainfully employed and enjoying excellent salaries.

This venue allows prospective nurses to be productive in the short span of two years. In a typical 4-year B.S. Nursing program, there is a year spent for reviewing for various examinations, and a 3-year wait for their visas in the Philippines. This is a total of 8 years in which these students are non-productive. In contrast, a 2-

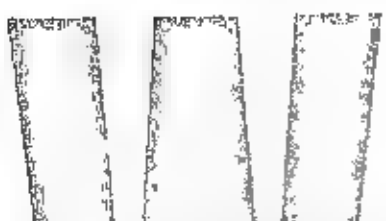
year graduate can be gainfully employed, earning as much as \$60,000 a year after two years. They can start repaying all their debts, take care of their parents and families, and start sponsoring other brothers and sisters in their quest for higher education.

The man who brought this opportunity to Filipinos is Johnny Y. Fong, M.D., a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila High School and the U.P. College of Medicine. He had his pediatric residency at the University of Illinois. He is a licensed pediatrician in California, New York and Illinois. In 2002, he established the Loyola Medical College Foundation, a non-profit, non-stock charitable organization, which formed the San Beda College of Medicine in consortium with San Beda College. In 2004, the foundation donated the Rose and Albert Fong Health Science Building to SBC and established the San Beda College of Nursing. A proponent of excellence in education, he was able to elevate SBC College of Nursing to its current rank of number 3 in the Philippines in its category in the short span of 2 years with the help of his academic staff in its last Philippine Board performance, SBC had a pass rate of 88% and a graduate among the top ten topnotchers.

St. Ignace Health Science College is independent of SBC legally, financially and academically. It is affiliated with Fresno City College of Nursing, an institution accredited by the U.S. National League of Nursing and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It has a pass rate of 98% in the NCLEX. Using the same curriculum and review materials, St. Ignace is committed to an NCLEX pass rate of 98% or higher.

St. Ignace Health Science College is located at Suite 2A, 92A West Avenue, Quezon City. For more information, visit www.stignacecollege.com.

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HIGH actor couldn't get it up? But only with his wife. Which Pinoy Big Brother housemate began dreaming of death deep into the reality show's three-month lab-rat confinement?

And what happened to the marine biologist, said to be popular in his field, who squirmed through a potentially traumatic re-birthing process so he could "discover himself through his body"?

Stumped? Well, there's always Randy Misael Sebastian Dellosa, who has all the answers. Dellosa was the in-house psychologist of the massively popular reality show, which had cameras trained on 13 people 24/7 for a little over three months. He applied for the job and stays on as house psychologist for the show's celebrity edition.

But as a certified shrink, practicing psychologist, and proponent of New Age-inspired therapies, Dellosa can't out his clients. Fortunately, the master of the blind item is willing to throw us the juice.

"He's in his 20s," he says of the selectively dysfunctional actor. "This guy believes he has to be loyal to his wife so he can't fantasize during sex. He should focus only on his wife. But since they've lived together for a long time, he can't get aroused with her anymore. So he's impotent with his wife. He tried himself out with another woman and it worked. But he can't get that experience in his own bedroom."

The solution? Permission to roam, mentality at least, while he's having sex with his wife. "I tell him, 'Your wife will never know.' The fantasy actually enhances the relationship. So true enough, after half a year, they had a child."

As for the housemate with dreams of death, Dellosa says the dreams are symbolic of "missing people, missing loved ones, or a symbol of the death of a part of themselves."

On the other hand, the marine biologist was "body-oriented" and didn't like talking, according to Dellosa, so the re-birthing exercise was an appropriate option.

So why is a preternaturally young-looking doctor of psychiatry who's been practicing for 20 years, messing around with old school regression-catharsis therapy, dream analysis, as well as life coaching/counseling, breathwork therapy, expressive arts therapy, spiritual direction session, healing visualization sessions, touch therapy for emotional wholeness, body reading session, exercises to integrate the body, mind and emotions, meditation, stress release bodywork therapy, nutritional healing, holosync healing sounds therapy, bio-energetic clearing and balancing, and oriental body treatments?

Doesn't it all sound a tad too... a) peacenik y, b) grab-bag, c) dubious in a Sigmund Freud-meets-Dr. Phil kind of way?

Holistic healing

"Personally I want to be known as a person who does holistic healing as compared to psychiatrists who just prescribe medicines after seeing patients for 10 to 15 minutes," he says. A BS psychology graduate of the University of the Philippines, Dellosa took up his medical degree at the Far Eastern University before majoring in psychiatry.

Although Dellosa continues to do grunt work for true-blue schizophrenics and manic-depressives, he schedules his clinical cases all in one day to keep them separate from his self-discovery clients.

"There's still a stigma when one goes to a shrink so people still hide the fact that they need it or that they go to one. That's sad.... On the other hand, there are people who need it but don't know who to go to. And that's why

No Dr. Phil: Dellosa is not a "mediocre people-helper"



This psychologist doesn't shrink in the face of Big Brother

Having himself walked a colorful path, Dr. Randy Dellosa deals with everything in the bright orange house and beyond

I want to promote myself," he admits candidly. "There are people who are hurting but who go to mediocre people-helpers."

He recalls being shamanistically treated by a well-known New Age healer-cum-everything else. He was asked to strip and was then massaged quite vigorously and painfully. When he asked her the physiological basis for her procedures, she waved the question aside. "But you'd be surprised by her clientele list. A lot of them are from the academe."

Dr. Phil is another person who gets his goat. The tough-talking television psychologist got his leg-up from Oprah Winfrey when he helped her analyze and read the jury after she was sued by cattle raisers when she uttered "I've eaten my last hamburger" during a show on mad cow disease. "I don't really like Dr. Phil," confesses Dellosa. "The thing is, he gives advice so quickly. I've been invited to talk shows, and the most difficult thing is to give advice when you don't really know the whole context," he argues. "And then he's quite judgmental."

Which is something Dellosa avoids in his therapies. "I think people want to be listened to first and then understood and affirmed. Their decision may be wrong, but they still believe it's the best decision they could have made."

But how does one affirm a client ("they don't want to be called patients") who has made a patently wrong decision?

"Listening is already affirming. Non-judging is affirming. Finding out the context of why he or she made that decision is affirming," he explains.

"What I try to do afterwards is find out what he or she really wants inside. That's where you find your true or authentic self that dictates the steps to be taken. For example, you may be hitched with a married man but if I ask your true self, you really don't want to be. Or you want out. It's trying to find out what your true self wants and then finding out your options."

Even his clinical patients are encouraged to undergo such next steps after they're treated with medications. While

not a great fan of drugs, Dellosa agrees that drugs do stabilize chemical imbalances. "It's not just a problem in life" but something else that affects the body, he says. "In that case, I use medicines more as a support. I treat it first and then after they're okay, I talk about the problems that triggered it. That's the next step. Sometimes I don't stop at treatment, I go towards life enhancement."

Which apparently he was not supposed to dispense as resident psychologist on Pinoy Big Brother. He came to the house once a week to counsel housemates confidentially and off camera. "As the PBB shrink, I'm always tempted to do therapy on them. But I'm only given 10 to 15 minutes with them."

Disembodied voice

Worse—and true to the show's cabin feverish conditions—housemates could only direct their questions to a camera. For his part, Dellosa holed up in the room of the equally disembodied voice that played Big Brother, and murmured his reassurances through a monitor.

In fact, since his name was not revealed until the end of the show, housemates would invent names for him. "The easiest for them was to call me Doc. But some of them didn't like the idea of opening up to a doctor so they started giving me other names. Say gave me the name of Bart. Franzen called me Jasper." The names, he adds, are a way for the housemates to humanize the camera.

"Racquel gave me the name MRS because she has ESP (extra sensory perception). And true enough, the first initials of my name are RMS Randy Misael Sebastian. It's uncanny," says Dellosa.

So what exactly was his job description as Big Brother shrink?

"To calm the housemates down," he replies, laughing.

While someone else did the preliminary profile on the candidates to see if they could handle the stress of a fish-bowl existence on the show, Dellosa was actually hired to evaluate the candidates for "suicidal or aggressive behavior" during their confinement.

He recalls the phases that marked the housemates' detention. The first was the loss of privacy ("they say that

they're being watched even in the toilet") After two to three weeks, the reality lab rats began venting about interpersonal relationships within the house. And then there was the homesickness, which became worse as the show wore on. "They also start having dreams about death which are symbolic."

Creative drama

His job, he says, was simply to act as a sounding board. "I see it in terms of incomplete healing. Just for them to ventilate is already therapeutic so I don't go the extra mile to change them." Besides, he admits, "if I do therapy on them, their neurosis will disappear and it's their neurosis that creates the drama."

Curiously enough, Dellosa never really watched the show. Perhaps because his clinic hours are from 2 p.m. to 12 midnight so that celebrity clients could see him under the anonymous cover of late hours.

In fact, Dellosa himself, though eager to reach out to potential clients besieged by fandom, admits to hermetic tendencies. "I'm a loner most of the time because after a day of listening to problems, I don't want to see anybody anymore." While he plays tennis and flies out yearly to attend an intensive month-long gestalt wellness program, he aspires to become a monk. "I feel like I've evolved to that position wherein I'm content by myself."

Which may account for a lackadaisical love life he would rather not discuss. Or, long into the boot-by date for adult children, bunking in the home of his parents (an engineer and a doctor) who spend long stretches with his youngest sister in Hawaii.

Besides, it was the "license to do what I want to do, to be freakish" that led him into psychiatry in the first place, he says.

While Dellosa admits that his own description may be a stereotype, his eagerness to embrace the problems of the famous and his reticence to personally bask in the world of adulation or interpersonal relationships, makes him a shrink who sounds as unusual as the goody bag of therapies he holds out for all takers.

The hero who fell to earth and lit up the sky

TO THE COUNTRY'S President, his colleagues, and the media, Philippine Air Force (PAF) Capt. Aniano "Junie" Amatong, Jr. was a hero who sacrificed his life to save an entire village.

But for the woman who loved him the most, he was a passionate soldier who perished, leaving her without a husband, and their young son, without a father.

"Hero" is just a word to me now. Kyle and I were the ones he left behind. Heroic? *Ako iniwan, eh*," Junie's widow, Arlene, said two weeks after the fatal accident.

There is raw pain in the petite 33-year-old's every word. Awards and recognition were given to Junie after his death, including a PAF Distinguished Aviation Cross Award, the highest award conferred to aviators in the Air Force.

"But what would I do with the awards?" Arlene sighed.

On the morning of Jan. 24, Amatong, 31, and his copilot, Capt. James Acosta, his upperclassman at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), were on their way to Clark Field, Pampanga for an aerial combat maneuvers exercise with US troops when their OV-10 Bronco aircraft developed engine trouble.

Broken body

By Acosta's account, Amatong had ordered him to eject, but the latter remained in the crippled aircraft to steer it away from the houses below in Barangay Binakod, Paombong, Bulacan.

Within seconds, the fixed-wing, two-engine aircraft crashed into a fishpond. Amatong's body was found a few meters away from the wreck, his parachute deployed, indicating that he tried to eject at the last minute.

It was his *mustangs* from the PMA who recovered his broken body.

Junie was born on July 23, 1974 in Cebu City, the second in the brood of seven of retired Army Capt. Aniano Amatong and wife, Judith.

Junie had always wanted to become a pilot since riding on a military C-130 cargo plane with his parents when he was about three years old.

"The plane was full and the pilot had asked if there were children who wanted to ride in front. Junie volunteered," Judith recalled.

It was a childhood dream that never wavered, Judith said, not even when she saw that Junie was already physically and emotionally drained from the rigors of the elite PMA training.

"I'd cry then hug him and kiss him whenever I visited him at the academy. He seemed embarrassed by my show of affection, but as a mother, I didn't want to see him suffer. I begged him to quit and go home," Judith said.

But Junie stayed on and graduated from the PMA in 1996. He trained as an OV-10 pilot at the PAF Flying School and saw combat in encounters with rebel secessionist groups in Mindanao, the hardest of which were the battles during the time of then President Joseph Estrada.

The family that Capt. Junie

Amatong left behind tries to

make sense of the Air Force

hero's life and final sacrifice

He also inspired his younger brother, Augustus, to enter the academy. Augustus is now a junior officer in the Philippine Navy.

Even before Junie was promoted to captain in March 2003, he was already a recipient of several military awards in the government's fight against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Junie loved to fly so much," said Arlene. "I really can't explain it. He would become irritable when a scheduled flight was cancelled. Sometimes, I would catch myself thinking that he died doing the one thing he really loved."

Dedicated soldier

Junie was a dedicated soldier but he also never failed to show that he was human, his wife continued.

"He would ask me if he'd still go to heaven because he knew that every time he dropped a bomb, people were killed, whether they were rebels or innocent civilians."

Junie had wanted to become a general, Arlene said, because he wanted to change a lot of things in the Armed Forces and in the country.

"But he was a soldier loyal to his government, whoever is in the seat of power. He didn't join the Magdalo group because he told me there were other ways to achieve the change that everybody wanted," Arlene said.

In his own way, the soldier also showed his compassion for the less fortunate.

Often, Arlene and Judith recounted, he would give food to street children.

"I remember once when we were about to have lunch in Divisoria. He couldn't eat because there were street children right outside the restaurant. Junie bought some food, went out, and gave it to them," Arlene said.

Once, a tricycle hit his car. Instead of demanding that the driver pay for the damage, it was Junie who gave the man P300 for the repair of the tricycle.

Once, when husband and wife had a major fight, Junie drove Arlene back to her father's house in Alabang. "He remembered what my dad told him when we got married: '*Isauli mo ang anak ko sa akin kapag nag-away kayo.*' My dad was so surprised that Junie heeded his advice," Arlene said.

Remembering the incident, Judith added: "And when he came back to our house, Junie was crying really hard."

That Junie chose to save other people's lives rather than his own came as no surprise to Arlene, even if the act broke her own heart.

She expressed hope that the accident that claimed her husband's life would be another "eye opener" for the Armed Forces, particularly to the Air Force, which is struggling with a fleet of aging aircraft. "But then again, it always ends up as just an 'eye opener,'" Arlene said.

Hero and leader

In 2001, one of the Air Force's first female pilots, Lt. Mary Grace Baloyong, was killed when her OV-10 crashed

near Clark Air Base.

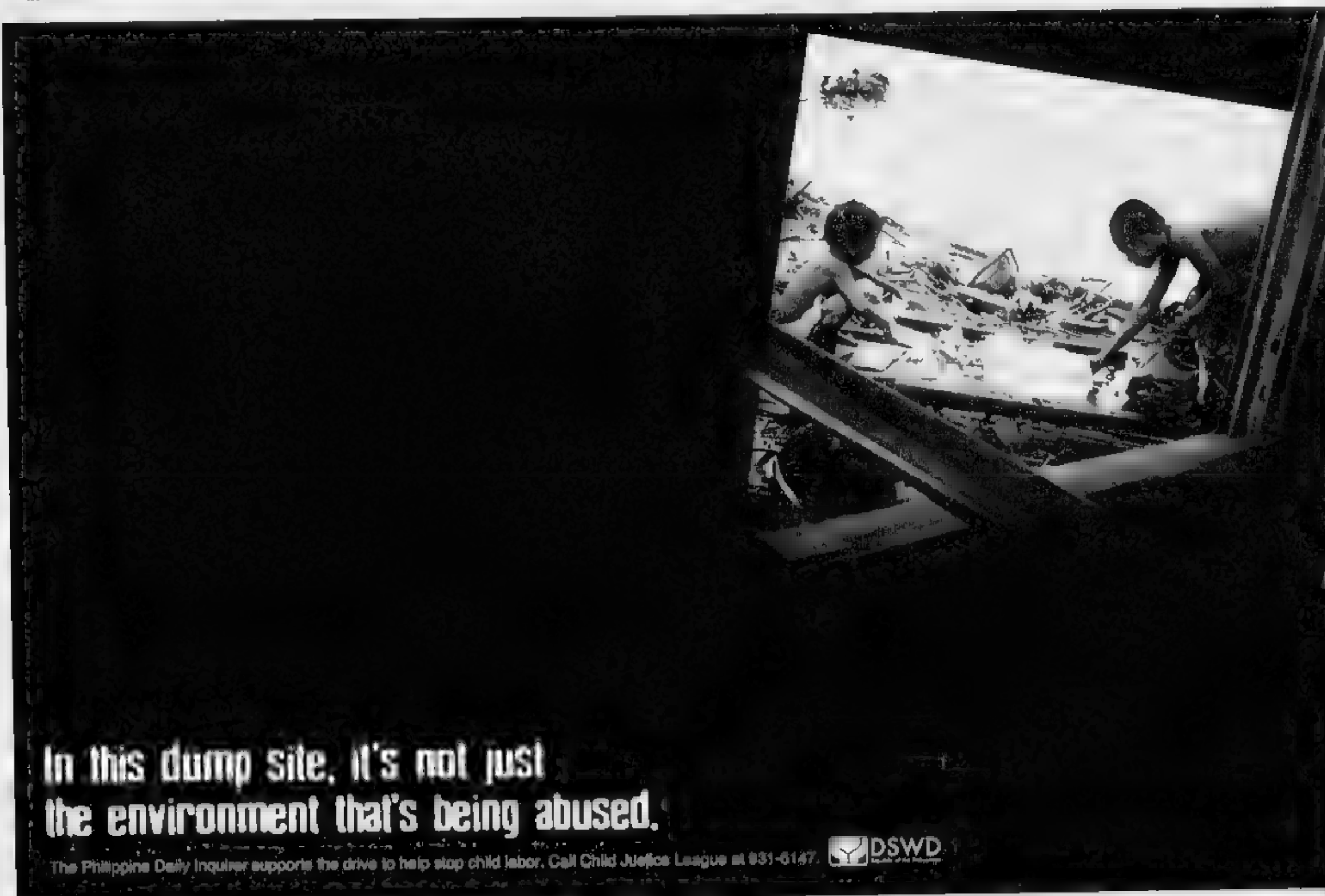
The OV-10 Bronco is a twin-engine aircraft used by the Armed Forces for close air support missions, aerial reconnaissance, and cloud seeding operations. It can also carry a wide variety of bombs and other air munitions.

"I am from a military family like him, so I was always aware of the dangers in a soldier's life," said Arlene. "But no one, nothing, could ever prepare you for the death of your lifetime partner."

A few days after Junie's death, Kyle wore his father's helmet, which was recovered from the crash site and still reeked of jet fuel. "He started saying, 'I'll be a pilot like dad!' And I said no! I will not allow my son to become a soldier," Arlene admitted.

There was also a time when Arlene heard Kyle say, "My dad's a hero. My dad's a leader."

Maybe, Arlene surmised, their son's teachers taught him that to help him cope with the loss. And maybe, in time, Arlene said, she herself would learn to accept Junie's heroic act. □



In this dump site, it's not just the environment that's being abused.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer supports the drive to help stop child labor. Call Child Justice League at 831-6147.

DSWD

Mark ...from page 1

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"The money I spent for lawyers is nothing compared to the emotional trauma my family and I had to go through in the course of the litigation," he confesses. "I wish that the costly fees for legal services could include sparing my family from that horrible experience." His families have recovered somehow, but they've all been scarred, he says.

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"I still can't believe it. There I was in an American detention facility for the crime of making an illegal contribution to a political campaign fund," he says. "Sa Pilipinas, mangu-rakat ka, magnakaw ka, bida ka. Sa America, wala akong nakaw at nagbigay pa nga ako ng sarili kong pera para sa pinaniniwalaan kong kawsa, kinulong ako. (In the Philippines, you steal and you plunder and you're a big shot. In America, I stole nothing and even gave of my own money for a cause I believe in and I land in jail). What an irony!"

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The all-male facility which houses 3,500 offenders does not have the stereotyped features of a detention center, though. It looks more like a resort in a huge compound where only the two main doors are locked. His cell measured five by seven feet and was just like an open room without a door. It had a double deck and a single deck bed arranged like a letter "E" and had a high ceiling.

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when he met and married his first wife.

Moments of promise

In 1981, he showed moments of promise as a businessman in Manila until his marriage fell apart. Running away with his seven children, he had hoped to find a new life in the US, but his estranged wife had succeeded in putting his name in the hold-departure list of the Immigration Bureau. He managed to get a new passport from "someone," he says, but it cost him a lot. His new name, "Mark Jimenez" was inspired by his devotion to St. Mark, and the last name of a family friend, Jimmy Jimenez, who helped him find his bearings in the US.

New name or not, his past seems to haunt him, as speculations flew fast and wild about the source of his untold millions. He was a drug dealer and laundered money for the Colombian cocaine cartel, the rumors go, which Jimenez vigorously denies. "If I were a drug dealer, a gun runner and had connections with the Mafia and the drug cartel in Paraguay and Columbia, then I should have been convicted for these crimes in the US and not for illegal political contribution and tax evasion," he says.

The bulk of his wealth, he claims, came from his buy-and-sell business and from computers. In 1984 and with only a \$2,000 capitalization, Jimenez says he put up Apex Magnetics in California, a company engaged in buying out-of-brand diskettes such as Verbatim and selling these at discounted prices. In 1986, Apex shifted to selling Seagates hard drives which replaced the diskettes. "In just two years' time, I became very, very rich."

In 1988, Jimenez says he moved to Miami, Florida and replaced Apex with Future Tech International, a computer firm that exported parts to lucrative markets in Latin America, "which was at that time three years behind in computers." He says he managed to convince two American manufacturers of computer components—Quantum Corp. of Milpitas, California and Cyrix Corp. of Richardson, Texas to make him the exclusive distributor of their components in Latin America. Soon, he says, Future Tech was considered one of the top 300 fastest growing companies in America.

Exclusive distributor

Says Jimenez: "Former Justice Secretary Hernani Perez and my detractors asked how I could make money in computers when there's so little margin. Little did they know that I was the biggest and exclusive distributor of Samsung monitors in 28 countries in Latin America and was voted distributor of the year by Samsung many times. I was Quantum's biggest distributor of its hard drive worldwide and that's on record. I was the exclusive distributor of NEC floppy drives, Texas Instrument memories, Canon printers and Nikon electric floppy

drives. By 1995, Future Tech was earning \$500 million," he claims. It was, however, this same company that would later figure prominently in the tax evasion and illegal campaign contribution charges against him.

In 1994, he met then US President Bill Clinton and wife Hillary when he attended one of the Clinton's fund-raising coffee klatches at the White House. He soon became Florida's largest donor to the national Democratic Party in 1996. A Wall Street Journal report says that Jimenez had contributed more than \$800,000 to various Democrat causes and lobbied the Clinton administration on behalf of Paraguay, where his firm had major business interests.

In 1998, Jimenez fled to the Philippines in time for the presidential election, and just before a US justice department campaign-finance task force could charge him with tax evasion. In April 1999, the task force filed the charges in a 47-count superseding indictment. His first indictment was for violation of US election laws which prohibit hard-money contributions from foreign nationals.

Really close

Jimenez was introduced to then President Joseph Estrada by the Zamora brothers, Ronnie and Manny. Impressed by his credentials, Estrada described Jimenez as a "corporate genius" and invited him to help in the government's anti-poverty alleviation programs. They became very close, says Jimenez. "Really close. As close as it can get!"

But soon enough, he had a falling out with Estrada. Some people suspect that it was Jimenez who provided most of the damning documents that implicated the former actor-president during the impeachment trial. After Estrada was ousted by People Power, Jimenez ran for, and won a seat in, Congress.

In 2003, the long arm of American law reached Jimenez in the Philippines. After much stocktaking, he says he considered voluntary extradition and plea bargaining after his US escorts promised to treat him with courtesy on his plane trip back to the US. But that was only a promise, as he later realized.

Upon his release from prison, Jimenez says he immediately flew to the Benedictine Monastery in Malaybalay, Bukidnon to pray with monks to fulfill a promise he made while in detention. The visit stirred in him plans to put up shrines that he claims, would be open 24 hours a day, and would train lay ministers and church choirs to attend to the spiritual needs of the barangay.

"Looking back, I can say that my entire stay in prison has been a learning experience and that everything happened for a reason. I have no regrets," says Jimenez.

Realization: Jimenez says he rediscovered God when he accepted that "things were taking place for a reason"



Mark ...from page 1

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when he met and married his first wife.

Moments of promise

In 1981, he showed moments of promise as a businessman in Manila until his marriage fell apart. Running away with his seven children, he had hoped to find a new life in the US, but his estranged wife had succeeded in putting his name in the hold-departure list of the immigration bureau. He managed to get a new passport from "someone," he says, but it cost him a lot. His new name, "Mark Jimenez" was inspired by his devotion to St. Mark, and the last name of a family friend, Jimmy Jimenez, who helped him find his bearings in the US.

New name or not, his past seems to haunt him, as speculations flew fast and wild about the source of his untold millions. He was a drug dealer and laundered money for the Colombian cocaine cartel, the rumors go, which Jimenez vigorously denies. "If I were a drug dealer, a gun runner and had connections with the Mafia and the drug cartel in Paraguay and Columbia, then I should have been convicted for these crimes in the US and not for illegal political contribution and tax evasion," he says.

The bulk of his wealth, he claims, came from his buy-and-sell business and from computers. In 1984 and with only a \$2,000 capitalization, Jimenez says he put up Apex Magnetics in California, a company engaged in buying out-of-brand diskettes such as Verbatim and selling these at discounted prices. In 1986, Apex shifted to selling Seagates hard drives which replaced the diskettes. "In just two years' time, I became very, very rich."

In 1988, Jimenez says he moved to Miami, Florida and replaced Apex with Future Tech International, a computer firm that exported parts to lucrative markets in Latin America, "which was at that time three years behind in computers." He says he managed to convince two American manufacturers of computer components—Quantum Corp. of Milpitas, California and Cyrix Corp. of Richardson, Texas to make him the exclusive distributor of their components in Latin America. Soon, he says, Future Tech was considered one of the top 300 fastest growing companies in America.

Exclusive distributor

Says Jimenez: "Former Justice Secretary Hernani Perez and my detractors asked how I could make money in computers when there's so little margin. Little did they know that I was the biggest and exclusive distributor of Samsung monitors in 28 countries in Latin America and was voted distributor of the year by Samsung many times. I was Quantum's biggest distributor of its hard drive worldwide and that's on record. I was the exclusive distributor of NEC floppy drives, Texas Instrument memories, Canon printers and Nikon electric floppy

drives. By 1995, Future Tech was earning \$500 million," he claims. It was, however, this same company that would later figure prominently in the tax evasion and illegal campaign contribution charges against him.

In 1994, he met then US President Bill Clinton and wife Hillary when he attended one of the Clinton's fund-raising coffee klatches at the White House. He soon became Florida's largest donor to the national Democratic Party in 1996. A Wall Street Journal report says that Jimenez had contributed more than \$800,000 to various Democrat causes and lobbied the Clinton administration on behalf of Paraguay, where his firm had major business interests.

In 1998, Jimenez fled to the Philippines in time for the presidential election, and just before a US justice department campaign-finance task force could charge him with tax evasion. In April 1999, the task force filed the charges in a 47-count superseding indictment. His first indictment was for violation of US election laws which prohibit hard-money contributions from foreign nationals.

Really close

Jimenez was introduced to then President Joseph Estrada by the Zamora brothers, Ronnie and Manny. Impressed by his credentials, Estrada described Jimenez as a "corporate genius" and invited him to help in the government's anti-poverty alleviation programs. They became very close, says Jimenez. "Really close. As close as it can get!"

But soon enough, he had a falling out with Estrada. Some people suspect that it was Jimenez who provided most of the damning documents that implicated the former actor-president during the impeachment trial. After Estrada was ousted by People Power, Jimenez ran for, and won a seat in, Congress.

In 2003, the long arm of American law reached Jimenez in the Philippines. After much stocktaking, he says he considered voluntary extradition and plea bargaining after his US escorts promised to treat him with courtesy on his plane trip back to the US. But that was only a promise, as he later realized.

Upon his release from prison, Jimenez says he immediately flew to the Benedictine Monastery in Malaybalay, Bukidnon to pray with monks to fulfill a promise he made while in detention. The visit stirred in him plans to put up shrines that he claims, would be open 24 hours a day, and would train lay ministers and church choirs to attend to the spiritual needs of the barangay.

"Looking back, I can say that my entire stay in prison has been a learning experience and that everything happened for a reason. I have no regrets," says Jimenez.



Realization: Jimenez says he rediscovered God when he accepted that "things were taking place for a reason"

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Twists of Fate

by Maria Gonnee S. Gomez
photographs by Roger Carpio

E STILL gets depressed, but not as often as he used to, he says.

"Depression is a state of mind," says Victor Wood, who recently turned 60. Here he is, Philippine music's one-time Golden Boy with 34 gold and platinum records and 30 motion pictures, who was almost destroyed by fame and fortune. "I simply think of my successes each time I feel low. What bothers me right now is my unstable financial future."

When asked about his health, however, he quickly rolls up his shirt to prove that he hasn't aged that much, thanks to years of not eating meat. The trademarks are still there: tousled hair (shoulder length and dyed black now), prominent cleft chin, brown eyes, and a 5-foot-10-inch lean frame.

The voice (and other attributes) earned him various titles—Jukebox King, Plaka King, and among the women, *Bukol* (or well-endowed). The Victor Wood style and the texture of that voice has not changed, he insists.

This Friday morning in Pasig, he is awakened for this interview but quickly perks up, talking about the paintings he intends to sell soon. No, he says, he isn't interested in how much he'll be getting from the sale. But a show titled "Sounds of Color" will hopefully take place in March.

We ask him about the supposed love affair with Madame Auring (more on this later) back in 2004, or news reports that he had been shot. "That shooting incident capitalized on the fact that I couldn't be located at that time. I hid from people, because I had had a nervous breakdown. I was aware Bongbong Marcos had figured in a shooting, but I also knew that it wasn't me he had shot. *Basta takot na takot ako noon* (I was so terrified then)."

He describes himself as a "veteran" of psychological problems. It started in childhood rejection, as he never got to know his father, Sgt. Kocky Wood, very well. Confrontations with his mother, Rosario Nobleza, did not do him good, either, and his mother's penchant for constantly changing partners irked the young Victor.

Lonesome self

Luck smiled on Victor in the '70s, though. "*Parang walang katapusan ang tagumpay* (It looked like there was no end to the success)," he mutters. He had a rosy career, and he loved the adulation. But deep inside, he was in turmoil. "I was very lonely, like there was another part of me hiding behind a mask. Each time I saw the curtains go down, I felt my lonesome self coming out, walking a dark alley without seeing light at the other end."

The Jukebox King claims he was literally and figuratively always drunk. He needed to escape reality. He turned to huge doses of Valium, which pacified his frayed nerves "but only while it lasted." When Victor grew more depressed, Valium was no longer enough. "That's when I realized, the more I shone on stage, the deeper the pain became. I became so narcissistic. Even at home I had a big mirror near me to assure myself that my good looks were still there." He battled a nervous breakdown while searching for his father. He would seek therapy at St. Luke's Hospital, and upon the advice of his doctors, cut down on his alcohol.

It was the late '70s when the entire Wood family migrated to the US. Victor thought he'd find peace there. In Woodside, California, he rubbed elbows with former Hollywood stars like Shirley Temple. He co-owned four gasoline stations. He was into real estate and landscaping. He managed the \$1.5-million Palm Plaza Restaurant. He was active in the Ninoy Aquino Movement, and counted



The sad ballad of Victor Wood

The former Golden Boy of Philippine music has barely survived the ravages of alcohol abuse and severe depression. Today, all he wants is to make a living as a painter, and to finally make peace with his 12 children

the Lopezes among his friends. "*Sarap ng buhay* (It was a good life). I was comfortable, I enjoyed the amenities." **Severed ties**

The prosperity didn't last, however. Along the way, he lost his investments. His marriage broke down,

and he severed ties with his children.

Victor was diagnosed as being manic-depressive with suicidal tendencies. He again underwent therapy at the Stanford University Hospital in California when he began thinking of suicide as the answer to his problems.

How Victor rose above this

still amazes him. "I simply said to myself that death is not the final proposition. Childhood poverty and my family's will to survive kept flashing back. I got myself together, prayed harder than I ever had before, and asked for forgiveness. I read the book, 'Cause of Miracles,' which somehow helped me gain a more positive outlook."

When Victor came home to the Philippines in 1998, he had no clear plans. With the Marcoses no longer in power, he thought the Philippines would be full of promise, with an honest, clean and corruption-free government. There were hints that the owners of ABS-CBN were interested in him for some shows, but nothing concrete came about. "I'd be hypocrite if I say I did not expect something," he confesses.

Much, much later, local politics beckoned, and Madame Auring came into the picture. Victor ran for vice governor of Rizal "to institute changes." He knew he had pitted himself against moneyed stalwarts, but this did not worry him. He doesn't regret losing in the polls, either, although he learned that "politics Pinoy style is a murky morass. The Pinoy have a real problem."

Then there was that other piece of news. "*Yang kay Madame Auring, nasira ako d'yan* (That thing with Madame Auring destroyed my reputation)." He claims his appearances with Auring in 2004 were part of some manager's publicity stunt. He wasn't aware this involvement would become tabloid news and the damage remains to this day. He says, from time to time, however, he reflects on the cheap ploy as a learning experience.

Rustic origins

Thankfully, there was painting to turn to. Although not a degree holder in art, the informal lessons Victor took up in Germany developed his impressionistic style. The basic painting lessons came after the former actor did a show sponsored by the Caritas Manila Germany Foundation.

"Painting is a point of view—either you have it or you don't. I read art books; then, I worked to discipline my mind."

Victor drew from the images of his rustic origins in Buhí, Camarines Sur, where he was born. The images vary—butterflies, gushing water, fish in nets, rice paddies, supple-figured women, and the majestic Mayon Volcano. He is at home with acrylic and oil. His dream is to combine painting and music in a grand show.

He still feels incomplete, though. He

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